

Diocesan group took brief time-out

Private gathering was 'mini-synod'

DENVER — Most of the Rochester diocese's World Youth Day agenda involved shared activities with hordes of fellow youths from all over the globe.

But for two hours last Friday, Aug. 13, the Rochester contingent stowed itself away in an auditorium for a special gathering all its own.

Much of that time at Denver's Temple Events Center was spent conducting a "mini-synod." Small groups were formed to address several issues raised in recent months at parish and regional synod sessions within the diocese.

Each discussion group delved into one of four categories: how youths and young adults feel about their place in the church; what the church needs to do to be more welcoming and inclusive of these people; what gifts, talents and strengths can youths and young adults share with the church; and how they can integrate their World Youth Day experiences into parish life.

One representative from each group then stepped up to the microphone to report its findings.

Although conclusions were varied, one central theme appeared to unfold: that youths don't have an active enough role in their parish, and that an increasing number of adults need to change their attitudes toward youths to help that situation change.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark concluded the session by responding to these concerns. He emphasized that perseverance is the main tool in creating a new future.



Mike Latona
Bishop Matthew H. Clark (left) holds hands with Karen Tomkins of Church of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads while singing 'We Are One Body' at Denver's Temple Events Center Aug. 13.

"Older people aren't always as open to change. Please believe that if we sometimes show reluctance, it's not that the idea is bad," Bishop Clark emphasized to the gathering.

He added that "if we (adults) don't listen, it's like signing our own death warrant."

However, Angela Kiklowicz, 16, acknowledged to the *Catholic Courier* that

youths mustn't rely strictly on adults for doors to open.

"There are certain things that older people can't do. If some of the youths came around and said, 'Hey, youth groups are really cool,' then you'd probably do it. But if an adult said it, you might not listen," said Kiklowicz, a parishioner in the cluster comprising St. Stanislaus Church in Bradford, St. Joseph in Campbell and St. Catherine of Siena in Addison.

Joshua McCaig, 17, said he was using last week to gain insight not just from fellow diocesan youths, but also from young people around the world.

"That's my main goal — just to talk to as many people as I can and find out about other issues," remarked McCaig, a parishioner in the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community cluster.

Yet McCaig also enjoyed the concept of raising ideas with Bishop Clark.

"I think it's good that our bishop was able to listen to some of our points of view," he said. "It reminded me a lot of Bishop's Day with Youth (an annual diocesan event during which the bishop conducts a question-and-answer session with diocesan youths)."

— Mike Latona

'Nunsense' shows set for Canandaigua

CANANDAIGUA — The Downstairs Cabaret Theatre recently announced that *Nunsense*, the longest running musical in Rochester history, will run in Canandaigua from Aug. 20-29, 1993. Performances will take place at the Canandaigua Academy Auditorium, 435 East St.

Nunsense tells the story of the Little Sisters of Hoboken who have staged a talent show in order to raise enough money to bury four sisters.

Performances are scheduled for Aug. 20, 21 27 and 28 at 8 p.m., and Aug. 22 and 29 at 4 p.m. Tickets, which cost \$18, may be reserved by calling the Downstairs Cabaret Theatre box office at 716/325-4370.

A \$3 discount is available for people ages 60 and older or for groups of 10 or more people. Full-time students can receive half-price tickets.

The Downstairs Cabaret Theatre is a not-for-profit professional theatre.

Host families needed for European students

BROCKPORT — Eurovacancies, an organization which sponsors exchange students from Europe, is seeking host families for the upcoming school year.

These families are required to furnish lodging and meals only. The students, who come primarily from Germany, have their own spending money and insurance coverage. Families have the option of hosting these youths either for one semester or the entire 1993-94 school year.

Those interested may write to Margaret L. Johnson at Eurovacancies, Box 715, Brockport, N.Y. 14420.

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