

Diversity rules as youths gather in Philadelphia

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

For 16-year-old Jane Kroouze, this type of education went well beyond her normal schooling.

"The diversity was good. A lot of people wouldn't think of talking about stuff like that," said Kroouze, who attended workshops on AIDS and Native Americans during the National Catholic Youth Convention.

The event was held at the Philadelphia Convention Center this past Thursday through Sunday, Nov. 11-14. Approximately 170 representatives of the Rochester diocese — 130 youths and 40 adults — attended the biennial convention.

The diocesan group was joined by nearly 7,000 participants from across the country who gathered in Philadelphia to celebrate the convention's theme, "Let the Spirit Ring." In addition to the workshops, youths listened to keynote speakers and participated in social events.

Mande Mastin, 15, a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Honeoye, attended the Native American workshop as well as one which dealt with messages contained in popular music lyrics. Another she took part in was titled, "Youth in the Church: Not Just a Clean-Up Crew."

Mastin said she was struck by the closeness she felt with Catholic youths from other parts of the country whom she was meeting for the first time.

"You could go up to anybody and not feel any pressure, and say, 'Hi, I'm Mande' and give them a hug," remarked Mastin, a sophomore at Honeoye Central High School. "I got a lot of people's addresses and phone num-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Greg Grable of Rochester's St. Stanislaus Church looks on as Joan Paquette from St. Rita's Church in Webster loads her bags at the start of their Nov. 11 bus journey to the National Catholic Youth Convention in Philadelphia.

bers." Kroouze, a junior at Elmira Notre Dame High School and parishioner at St. Casimir Church, also made several long-distance acquaintances.

"I met people from South Carolina, Florida, New Jersey and California," she said. "I was shocked that one person from New Jersey knew where Elmira was, because when you say you're from New York, they think you're from New York City."

Constant activity marked the four-day affair, said Kroouze. "It was very

overwhelming," she remarked.

Diocesan youth coordinator Michael Theisen also noted the high energy level. "It was a lot of cheering and screaming and enthusiasm and excitement," he commented.

However, Theisen added that he wished there had been enough time available to conduct silent reflection on the issues covered during the four-day gathering.

"Once you get pepped up, what do you do with it?" said Theisen. "It's important for parish groups to have the time to say, 'What does this mean for us and how can we make it hap-

pen."

More than half of the diocesan contingent traveled to Philadelphia on two charter buses which pulled out of the Pastoral Center parking lot at 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, early Thursday morning. Pick-ups were made along the way in the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier areas, and breakfast was served for the travelers at Church of St. Mary Our Mother, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads.

The return trip followed a similar pattern, with St. Margaret Mary Church, 1110 Pennsylvania Ave., Apalachin, serving as a dinner stop on Sunday.

Bishop Kearney to host hockey, basketball events

ROCHESTER — Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S., will serve as the host school for two upcoming multi-team sporting events.

The first-ever Kearney Invitational Hockey Classic will take place on Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Rochester Community War Memorial. Four high-school games will be played: Brockport vs. Brighton at 1 p.m.; Greece vs. Irondequoit at 3 p.m.; Hilton vs. Webster at 5 p.m.; and Spencerport vs. Kearney at 7 p.m.

The War Memorial will host the Kearney Invitational Basketball Classic, scheduled for Jan. 23, 1994. Five boys' varsity games will take place: Trumansburg vs. Greece Athena at 11:30 a.m.; Greece Arcadia vs. Irondequoit at 1 p.m.; Buffalo St. Joseph's vs. Franklin at 2:30 p.m.; Pittsford Sutherland vs. Mynderse Academy at 4 p.m.; and Greece Olympia vs. Kearney at 7 p.m. In addition, there will be a girls' varsity contest between Webster and Kearney at 5:30 p.m.

For details on either event, call 716/342-4000.

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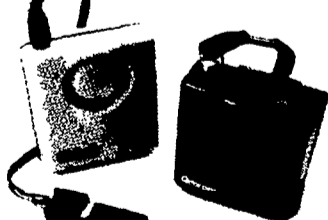
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MISSION NEWS



Kellie Farley

This past summer, Kellie Farley and Donal Ryan, two New Yorkers, ended their service as lay mission volunteers in Belize, Central America. For Kellie, one of the poorest

of her students taught her a life-lesson.

"When my students had to write letters to God," Kellie noted, "this girl wrote, 'Dear God, I have a lot of problems in my life... But because of you, I

know I can get through it all. I love you God. Thanks for being there for me.' I won't ever forget the lesson that young girl taught me about faith." Donal left Belize with a faith, he said, he had made his own; "when I go home, I won't be so inconspicuous about my faith."



Donal Ryan



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