

Essay contest open to Monroe County youths

Monroe County students in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in the National Annual Irish History Essay Contest.

This year's themes are: "Who is Mary Robison and What Is Her Influence on Irish History" (for grades 6-8); and "What Aspect of Celtic Society Did Finn mac Cumhail Portray?" (grades 9-12).

This contest is open to children attending private, parochial and home schools. Cash prizes will be awarded. The competition is being sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians of America.

Entry deadline is Jan. 10, 1994. For details, call Marie E. Logan at 716/467-3393.

Diocese offering retreat at Notre Dame center

CANANDAIGUA — A retreat for youth ministers and catechetical leaders will be held next month at the Notre Dame Retreat House, 5151 Foster Road.

Titled "Come Away ... Rest Awhile," this retreat will run from 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 18, to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 19. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will facilitate this event, which is being sponsored by the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Cost is \$80. Registration deadline is Jan. 10, 1994. Call Mary Ellen FitzGibbons at 716/328-3210, ext. 201.

Our Lady of Mercy sets annual Golden Mass

BRIGHTON — Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate the annual Golden Mass at Our Lady of Mercy High School on Thursday, Dec. 23. The 8:30 a.m. Mass will take place in the school auditorium, 1437 Blossom Road.

During the Mass, Bishop Clark will bless Christmas baskets full of food and gifts. Mercy students have been collecting goods during the month of December for needy families in the Rochester area. Students and faculty will then distribute these baskets to the families.

Mass on Dec. 26 is for ailing McQuaid student

ROCHESTER — A special Mass will be offered for Brannon Smith on Dec. 26, 1993, at St. Stanislaus Church, 1124 Hudson Ave.

The 1:30 p.m. Latin Mass will be celebrated in the Tridentine Rite. Smith, a senior at McQuaid Jesuit High School, is battling cancer. The *Catholic Courier* featured Smith in the Nov. 11, 1993 issue.

The Mass is open to the public. For details, call Mary MacNamara at 716/247-7918.

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S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Aaron Unterborn sits in one of the fire trucks at the Walker Fire Department, where he is an active volunteer and chief of the department's Explorer Post 594.

Full schedule suits Hamlin teen

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

HAMLIN — By the time he graduates from college, Aaron Unterborn's resumé might read more like a novel.

A lector and youth-group member at his church, he is also a state champion in judo and captain of his high-school volleyball team. And, in addition to his recent appointment as a firefighter at his local department, he works 15 hours per week for the Hilton Central School District.

Unterborn's projected college major simply adds further to his pattern of diversification, since he plans to study manufacturing technology at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Yet Unterborn, who turned 18 on Dec. 12, says he performs a successful balancing act despite his full agenda.

"I still have time to go out; my parents can attest to that," said Unterborn as he turned to grin at his father, Glen.

"I balance my time between school, activities and friends," the Hilton High School senior added. "I have my list of priorities and what I will sacrifice."

Not only does Unterborn remain constantly on the go, but his activities reflect a trend of longstanding commitment as well.

He is a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann

Seton Church, 3747 Brick Schoolhouse Road, Hamlin, located in the northwest corner of Monroe County. He has been a lector there since he was 14, when, at the time, he became the parish's youngest person to serve in that role.

"It gave me a little bit more self-confidence; people would come up and say, 'You did good.' It also sort of put me more in the focus of the church. I met a lot of different people and made a lot of good friends," Unterborn acknowledged.

In addition to his church, academic and civic duties, Unterborn played volleyball the past three fall seasons for Hilton High. He goes all year with judo, and is a member of the RenShin Kan Dojo Judo Club at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

The highlight of Unterborn's eight-year judo career came at the 1992 state championships, which he won in the age 16-and-under light heavyweight division.

Another year-round devotion for Unterborn is his work with the Walker Fire Department, located less than a mile from his home up Route 260. He credits his father — a past fire department chief and still an active member — for spurring his interest in firefighting.

"My dad has been around it for as long as I can remember," Unterborn remarked.

"I remember one fire he went to, you could see the flames going all night. I was saying, 'Boy, I wish I could be there with my dad.'"

Unterborn's first official departmental involvement came at the age of 14, when he joined the Walker Fire Department Explorer Post 594. He is currently chief of that 11-member group. The Explorers, open to youths ages 14-21, are a division of the Boys Scouts of America.

Now that Unterborn has turned 18, he is eligible to serve as a full-fledged firefighter. Gaining sufficient approval was no problem: the Walker Fire Department board made him a fellow member one week before his birthday even occurred.

Unterborn's many accomplishments were recognized this past fall when he was selected to receive a Hands of Christ Award. This honor is presented annually to high-school seniors in the Rochester diocese who have exhibited outstanding service in their parish and community.

No matter what new activities may lie ahead for Unterborn as he prepares for college, he says his Catholic faith will provide the basis for his future.

"I got a lot of morals from my parents and my church, and it's paid off for me," he said. "I don't reason out why; it just feels right."



Donation to St. Joe's

Marianne Watson's fifth-grade class at St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads poses with the patient-transfer sled that the class donated to the St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatrics Unit in Elmira. In order to raise funds for the sled, students collected pledges for an in-class 'read-a-thon' in which they sponsored a two-hour marathon reading session and raised \$200. Watson's fifth-graders visited the pediatrics unit on Oct. 29, when the 22 students were given a tour and a demonstration of the patient-transfer sled they donated. The sled enables St. Joseph's patients to be moved from bed to bed more easily, causing less strain on both the patients and nurses.