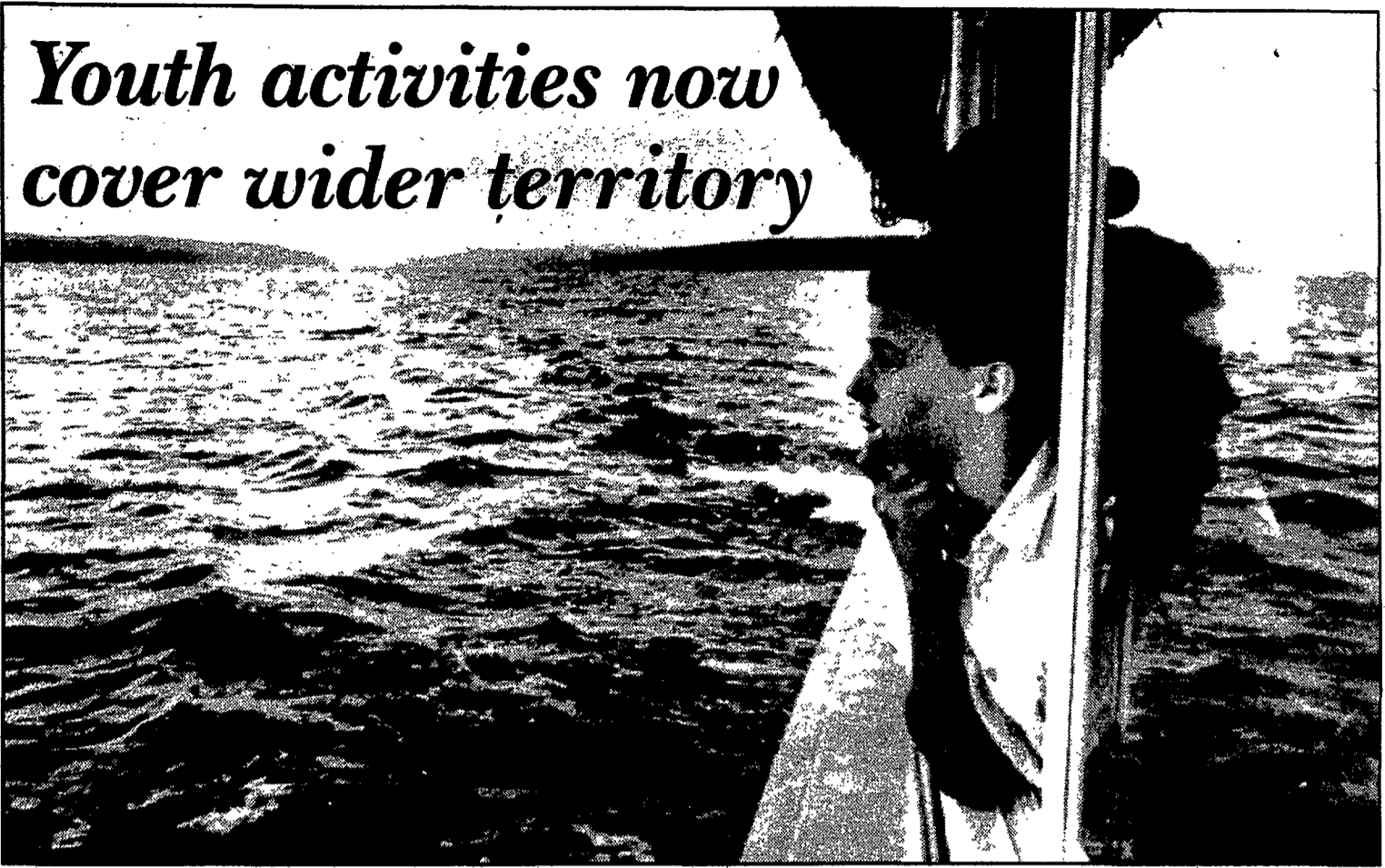


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S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Andy Hacken of St. Margaret Mary's Church in Apalachin peers out at Seneca Lake during a teen cruise last June. The diocese is planning teen cruises for Canandaigua Lake, Keuka Lake, and Lake Ontario.

By Mike Latona Staff writer

If this trend continues, diocesan youths should soon be excellent candidates to appear in those "I Love New York" commercials.

Regionalized youth activities in the diocese are on the rise, with hundreds of young Catholics traveling to other towns so they can unite with fellow youths at multi-parish events.

One recent example was presented in the form of a Teen Mass in the Southern Tier. The service was held for the first time on Sunday, Jan. 23, at Church of St. Mary Our Mother, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads.

According to Pat Knapp, youth minister at St. Mary Our Mother, approximately 50 people attended the Mass. Teen participants came from a number of Catholic churches throughout Chemung and Schuyler counties.

Knapp noted that these parishes are planning to hold Teen Masses four times per year, moving to a different site for each Mass. The next Mass is scheduled for May 22 at St. Mary's Church, 224 Franklin St., Elmira.

Finger Lakes-area teenagers will soon have the opportunity to experience a Teen Mass of their own. It's scheduled for March 20 at St. Dominic Church, 6 Canandaigua St., Shortsville.

Knapp acknowledged that by expanding geographical boundaries, Teen Masses create a larger social network for teenagers.

"The kids are getting to know some of the other kids from over the bridge and across town," she remarked.

Michael Theisen, who serves as diocesan youth ministry coordinator, noted that regional youth events seem to be catching on simply by word-of-mouth.

For instance, the Finger Lakes and Genesee Valley areas are planning to launch summer inter-parish softball leagues modeled after an existing program in Monroe County. Similarly, the Southern Tier parishes are discussing a summer volleyball league.

An overnight "Movie Madness" lock-in, scheduled for Feb. 20-21 at the State Theater in Ithaca, is open to all Southern Tier youths. Theisen noted that the Ithaca event was an offshoot of a concept originated by Monroe County parishes, who are planning their own "Movie Madness" for Feb. 24-25 at the Loews Theatres in Webster.

And a Southern Tier boat cruise, held for the first time last summer, has spurred considerable interest, said Theisen. In addition to another Southern Tier cruise planned for Seneca Lake in late June, Finger Lakes teens will host an excursion on Canandaigua Lake around the same time. Theisen said that other cruises may be added for Genesee Valley teens on Keuka Lake, as well as for Monroe County teens on Lake Ontario.

New events encompassing the entire diocese will include the second annual Junior High Youth Rally on June 5 at Keuka College, and the inaugural Diocesan Youth Convention from Aug. 5-7 at State University of New York College at Geneseo.

Theisen pointed out that regional collaboration enables youth ministers to

extend a wider menu of activities to their parish groups.

"They're realizing the benefits of working together — offering programs that parishes couldn't have offered individually," said Theisen. "I think the youth ministers get a lot out of them, too, because in the process of doing that, they get support and nourishment from each other by working on a common cause."

Distinguished violinist will perform at St. Louis

PITTSFORD — Noted violinist Tara Noval will be the guest artist for the Fifth Annual Benefit Concert at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6, at St. Louis Church, 60 S. Main St.

The concert is part of the parish's ongoing music series. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the following outreach centers in Rochester: House of Mercy, Mt. Carmel Food Cupboard, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, St. Martin's Place and St. Peter's Soup Kitchen.

Noval will perform selections by Tartini, Beethoven, Wieniawski and Sarasate.

A recent graduate of the Julliard School where she holds master and bachelor degrees in music, Noval is one of the nation's rising young stars in classical music. She has appeared as a soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as winner of the Young Soloist Auditions; the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra as winner of the Albright Award; the Santa Cruz Symphony Orchestra in California; and the Rochester Chamber Orchestra.

Her performance with the RCO earned her the following praise from the Times-Union in Rochester: "Tara Noval is a show stealer! By any standards, this was formidable fiddling, brilliant technique, sure tuning and a sure sense of musical means and ends."

Noval's performances have been broadcast over National Public Radio, and she has also performed at the United Nations, the Lincoln Center, and the National Arts Club in New York, in addition to performing all over the United States and Europe.

Suggested donation at the door is \$5 per person and \$10 per family. The church is handicapped-accessible.

For information, call 716/381-1226.

'They're realizing the benefits of working together — offering programs that parishes couldn't have offered individually.'

Michael Theisen, Diocesan Youth Ministry Coordinator

Church to host forum on violence in media

PITTSFORD — Transfiguration Church, 50 W. Bloomfield Road, will host a forum on "Violence in the Media — We Can Make a Difference," on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in the parish's education building.

Guest speaker Mary Lopocaro, an associate professor of communications at St. John Fisher College, Pittsford, is a member of ChildVision, a local group teaching teachers how to educate children to interpret the me-

dia rather than be manipulated by it.

Joining Lopocaro on a panel to answer questions about violence in the media will be Ellen Leifield, managing editor of Rochester's Democrat and Chronicle and Times-Union; Doug Emblidge, of WOKR-Channel 13 News in Rochester; and Anthony Sciolino, presiding family court judge.

For information, call 716/248-3922.

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