

# YOUTH FEATURE

## Full slate of activities to highlight convention

### Event will take place Aug. 5-7

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

GENESEO — A convention without formal attire or business meetings?

As far as these participants are concerned, all of those confining rituals can be left for an older crowd. Instead, the first-ever Diocesan Youth Convention will be a high-spirited affair, and young diocesan Catholics are eagerly anticipating the three-day event.

Scheduled for Aug. 5-7, the convention will take place at the State University of New York College at Geneseo. According to diocesan youth-ministry coordinator Michael Theisen, approximately 250 youths entering grades 9 through 12 are registered for the weekend. An additional 250 are expected to attend on Saturday, Aug. 6, for the Bishop's Day with Youth proceedings.

The gathering will combine the proceedings of previous Bishop's Days with Youth — held annually at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center until 1993 — with those of the diocesan Junior High Youth Rally, which has taken place at Keuka College each of the past two years.

As was the case with other Bishop's Days, the Aug. 6 agenda will contain numerous workshops dealing with such issues as relationships, cults, miracles, the media, teens in crisis, peer pressure, being Catholic, drugs and alcohol, and values.



File photo  
Sara Campanella, a parishioner at St. Cecilia's Church in Rochester, had her T-shirt signed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark during the Junior High Youth Rally at Keuka College June 5. Bishop Clark will also be attending the first-ever Diocesan Youth Convention Aug. 5-7 at Geneseo State College.

And, once again, Bishop Matthew H. Clark will take the day to address the youths. However, rather than recycle the previous question-and-answer format — now used at the Junior High Youth Rally — the bishop will instead lead an Aug. 6 workshop focusing on service and ministry. He will also preside over a closing liturgy at noon on Aug. 7.

Another new wrinkle is the conven-

tion site. Not only is Geneseo State more centrally located for youths throughout the diocese than is Rochester's convention center, but it also offers overnight accommodations.

Theisen pointed out that the campus is a preferred option for several other reasons as well.

"Something we weren't able to do downtown was go outside," he said. "It's

also a perfect atmosphere for young people, and being in high school, this would be a unique experience to be at a college. It would give them a flavor of what it's like."

The college setting also affords the opportunity for such recreational activities as swimming and volleyball, which have proven to be a big hit during the Junior High Youth Rally.

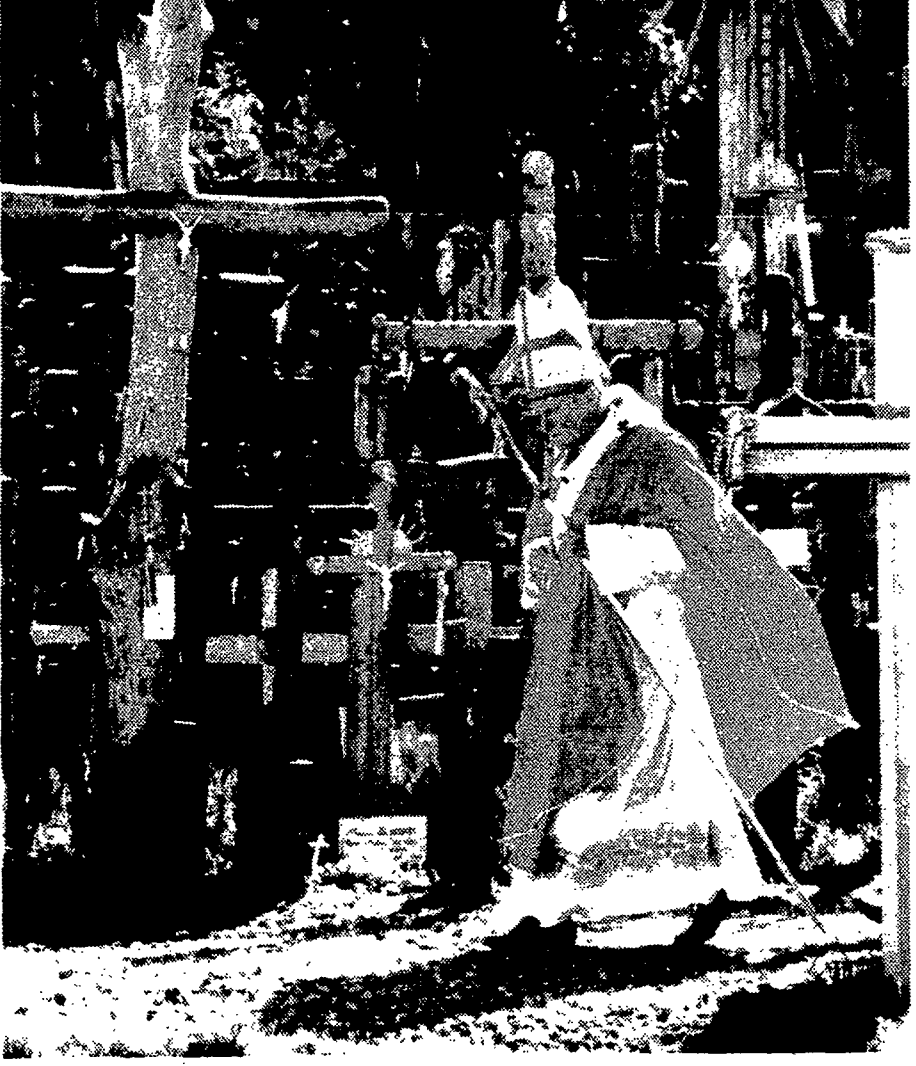
"We can do dancing and karaoke and swimming in the evening, and again that's something we couldn't do at the convention center because the price limited us to one (afternoon) meal," Theisen acknowledged.

Music and prayer will also constitute major portions of the weekend happenings. One guest performer combining both of these elements will be Steve Angrisano, a nationally recognized speaker and musician from Dallas, Texas. Angrisano performed at Mile High Stadium in Denver during World Youth Day last summer, and he was a keynote speaker at the National Catholic Youth Convention in Philadelphia during the fall.

"(The participants) are going to really experience a wide range of programs and activities specifically designed for Catholic youth," Theisen remarked.

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*EDITORS' NOTE: Single-day tickets are still available for Bishop's Day with Youth on Aug. 6. Registration is \$20 if postmarked by July 11, or \$25 thereafter. July 20 is the final registration date. Contact your parish youth-ministry coordinator for registration information, or call Michael Theisen at 716/328-3210, ext. 279 (outside of Monroe County call 1-800-388-7177, ext. 279.)*

# Let Them Not Be Silenced Again.



My dear sisters and brothers,

As we celebrate our freedom and God's many blessings upon our country during July, I ask you to remember our struggling Catholic sisters and brothers through the 1994 Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe which will be taken up on the weekend of July 9th and 10th.

Now that communism has fallen throughout Central and Eastern Europe, other challenges have to be faced. In some places the horrors of ethnic cleansing and war have replaced the persecution of Communist regimes. Despite the chaos and upheaval surrounding them, Catholics have held on to one thing - their faith. We are called to let them not be silenced again through our support of this special collection.

The Church sees the spirit and conviction of these people, but it also sees their needs and their deep hunger for faith and truth. The Church faces formidable challenges in trying to respond to their needs. Although people now have the freedom to profess and practice their faith, obstacles still exist which prevent the Church from being able to minister fully to its people.

The collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe was initiated by the bishops of the United States in 1990 and provides crucial financial support to restore church institutions, to provide religious education, to spread the Word of God through mass media and to restore Catholic charitable organizations once outlawed in Marxist states.

May God bless you for your generous response to this year's collection for the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,

† Matthew H. Clark  
Bishop of Rochester



## THE HILL OF CROSSES —Lithuania

For decades the faithful put up thousands of crosses to commemorate victims of communist persecution. By day, the Communists knocked them down; by night, people raised them up again and again. It is a remarkable witness of faith.

Support the Church in Eastern Europe.

Collection Weekend: July 9th & 10th