# FEATURE

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BRIGHTON — Camp Silver Birch, a summer camp operated by the Sisters of Mercy at the Mercy motherhouse, celebrated its 25th anniversary this summer.

This year's camp, which concluded on Aug. 5, averaged approximately 80 children per week. Its original director was Sister Mary Ann Binsack, followed by Sister Sheila Stevenson and her assistant Sister Mary Ann Kosakoski. The current director, Sister Marilyn Williams, has served in that capacity since 1989.

Camp activities include arts and crafts, sports and games, and a Red Cross swimming program.

#### 'Jesus Jam' scheduled for Sept. 3 in Webster

WEBSTER — Youths are invited to attend the fourth annual "Jesus Jam" on Saturday, Sept. 3, at the Webster Park White House located on Lake Road.

This all-day concert, which begins at noon, will feature several Christian contemporary bands. There is no admission charge, and participants are invited to pack a picnic lunch and spend the day.

The event is sponsored by Living Rock Ministries. For information, call Samme Palermo at 716/872-3300, ext. 257 (days) or 671-2697 (evenings).

### Weeklong bible camp draws 104 participants

ELMIRA — Response to this invitation was as enthusiastic as the words themselves.

With "Come to the Party and Celebrate Jesus" serving as the theme, a total of 104 youths participated in a vacation Bible camp held July 18-22 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 120 Fairmont Road.

This year's camp was coordinated by Eileen Sokolowski, religious-education coordinator at Our Lady of Lourdes. She was assisted by 21 adult volunteers and seven junior-high volunteers.

Although Sokolowski noted that approximately 20 percent came from various faith backgrounds, most youths who attended the camp were Lourdes parishioners. Sokolowski added that this was one of the few summer Bible camps offered by a Southern Tier parish.

The week consisted of several activities simulating events chronicled in New Testament readings, such as a "hosanna parade" marking Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and a picnic during which children ate fish crackers to symbolize Jesus feeding the 5,000 disciples.

Sokolowski explained that the celebration's theme was chosen to remind participants that "we can celebrate Jesus in many ways every day."

'Apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven.'

St. Rose of Lima

## Tier youths reach out to less fortunate

By Mike Latona Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Until recently, Michelle Asiello's only previous visits to the Rochester area had been to visit suburban malls.

Last week she saw an extremely different way of life when she ventured into Rochester's inner city.

There aren't any shopping complexes in the neighborhood surrounding Corpus Christ Church, 864 Main St. E. For many people who make use of the ministries offered by Corpus Christi, there is no spare money available for keeping up with the latest fashions. Finding a meal, or a place to sleep, are the more immediate concerns.

Asiello, along with seven other youths and their adult chaperons from the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, familiarized themselves with Corpus Christi's outreach efforts during an overnight visit last Thursday and Friday, Aug. 11-12.

The stay began with a Thursdayafternoon trip to the grounds of Isaiah House, a home for the dying. Corning-Painted Post parishioners then took part in Corpus

Christi's weekly 7 p.m. Thursday Mass, and slept overnight on the church rectory's floor.

Friday's activities included journeys to the Corpus Christi Child Care Center; Dimitri House, which supplies food and shelter for homeless and other low-income people; Matthew's Closet, a clothing thrift store; the Rogers House restaurant, staffed by former prisoners; and the Corpus Christi Health Care Center.

The 16-year-old Asiello said the most noticeable difference between the Corpus Christi neighborhood and her hometown is that "they lock the doors at the child care and they have high security."

"You don't lock your car when you go to the grocery store in Corning," observed Asiello, who is about to begin her sophomore year at Corning East High School.

Myra Humphrey, who serves as Corpus Christi's hospitality minister, said most of the visitors she accompanies share the same initial surprise as Asiello.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographe

Youths from the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, led by youth-group leader Mary Ann Curreri (bottom left), visited outreach ministries of Rochester's Corpus Christi Church Aug. 11-12.

"They say, 'Wow, I've heard about this on TV but now I'm really in a place where homeless people come,'" remarked Humphrey, who added that Corpus Christi has provided tours for groups coming from as far away as Philadelphia.

Asiello is pleased that Corpus Christi is there to help those in need.

"It just seemed interesting. We don't have outreach places like this," she said.

"Asiello added that one of her excursion's highlights occurred at the child-care facility, where the Southern Tier guests met with small children as well as the center's pet bunny, "Puddles."

Justin Sweeney. 15, acknowledged that a sense of commitment motivated him to come on last week's trip.

"I wanted to help the homeless," said Sweeney, a sophomore-to-be at Corning East. "I feel like I should, because I have a house and food and clothing."

Mary Ann Curreri, who serves as the Corning-Painted Post youth leader, noted that this expedition signified a different type of positive experience for those who regularly participate in youthgroup activities.

"So many times you do the fun things, but this really hits your heart," Curreri concluded.

### Hillside children lend helping hand at St. Joseph's House

ROCHESTER – Children from the Hillside Children's Center, 1183 Monroe Ave., have linked up with residents of the St. Joseph's House of Hospitality soup kitchen, 402 South Ave.

(across from Panorama Plaza)

For three consecutive Friday mornings (July 29, Aug. 5 and Aug. 12), the Hillside youths prepared and served meals for approximately 100 St. Joseph's House patrons.



Aug. 19 • 3-7pm 61 N. Main St. (Honeoye Falls) **624-9481** 

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