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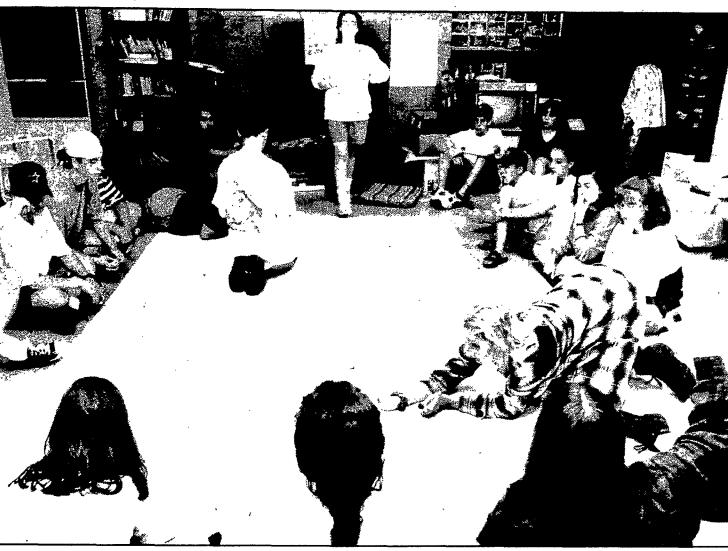
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YOUTH



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994 PAGE 15 **REGISTER NOW!!** Classes start September 12. Classes in ballet, tap, jazz and flags for ages 3-adult D 1970rast Professional training in a virtuous environment **CLASS** LOCATIONS Gates (Westmar Plaza) Webster (King's Gym) Avon (South Ave.) To register or for more information: **Cynthia Ford** Artistic Director: (716) 226-2083 laudette Collado **Registrar:** (716) 226-9361 Come and learn with us -over 30 years experience-**SHANNON MILLER** is Coming Sunday, September 11th! Shannon Miller is the 1993 World Champion and winner of five medals from the 1992 Olympic Games. Miller was undefeated both nationally and internationally in 1993. Call 388-8686 for details!

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Nora Bradbury-Haehl (top center) leads a discussion on the 'anatomy of a leader' during a late-August youth leadership retreat held at Camp Koinonia in Yates County.

Teens take the lead during retreat

By Mike Latona Staff writer

ITALY VALLEY - This retreat demonstrated that born leaders aren't the only kind out there.

Youth-group members from two Penfield parishes - St. Joseph's Church and Church of the Holy Spirit – not only enhanced but also discovered their leadership skills during the second half of a recent four-day retreat at Kamp Koinonia in Yates County. About 20 teens took part Aug. 28-29 in a variety of drills geared for students entering their sophomore, junior and senior years in high school.

One of the more unique activities had participants all standing on a piece of paper measuring 15 feet by 7 feet. They then listed on the gigantic sheet the qualities they thought a leader should possess, and assessed each other's leadership skills as well.

On the final day, youths climbed up a tree and "talked about looking at things from a new perspective, and how to break out of fears and insecurities," reported retreat director Nora Bradbury-Haehl. Some of those fears focused on failure, rejection, appearance, letting people down and the possibility that "somebody might stop loving me," according to Bradbury-Haehl. Among the ways participants offered to combat these thoughts were: do a special favor for someone; be around people who build you up; and do a daily affirmation of yourself.

Finally, the Penfield teens practiced being small-group and large-group facilitators. "It was the leaders leading the leaders. They were so good, I started taking notes," laughed Bradbury-Haehl, who serves as youth minister for both parishes (full-time at St. Joseph and parttime at Holy Spirit).

Bradbury-Haehl stressed that she was trying to draw out more than the obvious leadership qualities - "not just who was popular or who had good publicspeaking skills. Maybe somebody who has a really good prayer life, or maybe somebody who's shy and can understand what it's like to be shy, or somebody who can show sympathy."

St. Joseph's parishioner Theresa Garbach, 16, spoke highly of the retreat's educational value.

"I found out that I can relate to a group. I had always had a fear that I couldn't get across to one," she said. "I also learned how to keep a group interested."

Bill Maley, 17, who also attends St. Joseph Church, acquired similar enlightenment during his Kamp Kononia visit.

Bradbury-Haehl noted that the concept of "teens leading teens" has been used for about 10 years at St. Joseph's and has been a tremendous asset in that parish's consistently high level of youthgroup participation.

The Kamp Koinonia retreat marked one of two youth leadership-training events that took place that weekend. On Aug. 27-28, a series of sessions also was held at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush for teenagers taking leadership roles at future diocesan youth events.

This gathering was attended by 32 teens and eight adults. Many of the participants will put their skills to use at the four "Awakening Faith" retreats (grades 9-10) and two "Encountering Christ" retreats (grades 11-12) scheduled during the upcoming school year.

Michael Theisen, diocesan youth coordinator, said that the training's purpose was to "concentrate on what is a Christian leader and develop some of those skills – how do you give a talk, or conduct a prayer service or witness

"I learned that once you have the trust of a group, you can get better cooperation," he noted.

Garbach added that the intimate retreat atmosphere helped enhance this trust.

"Just by being in a group setting, you get to know people so much easier than walking down the street or in school," she remarked.



