

YOUTH FEATURE



Wendy Longlade/Photo intern

Members of St. John Fisher College's Office of Campus Ministry held a 'hunger banquet' on Nov. 15 during which students were separated into three socioeconomic levels and were fed meals consistent with those levels. The lowest — and most populated — group dined on rice and water.

Campuses show their support during Hunger Awareness Week

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — Two suburban colleges last week addressed a crisis that inner cities and Third-World countries struggle with all year long.

It's also a subject, Amy Smith added, that some of her fellow students might prefer to brush aside.

"This is a pretty nice campus situated in a pretty nice part of town. It's a fairy-tale world, and people don't want to come out of that fairy tale," said Smith, a senior at St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave.

Despite this tendency, Smith and other members of the college's Campus Ministry Office attempted to reach as many ears as possible during Hunger Awareness Week.

Beginning with a Nov. 13 Mass in Murphy Chapel, the list of activities included: a lecture by Dr. Dennis Culhane, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania who has conducted extensive research in homeless shelters; a "hunger banquet" during which students were separated into three social levels and given meals reflecting those differences; an all-day fast; and a concluding celebration for those who took part in the fast.

At the hunger banquet, dinner was distributed in the following fashion: one person ate steak and sipped champagne; two dined on hamburgers and soda; and seven made do with rice and water. The numbers were arranged based on what percentages of the world's population can afford such items.

After dinner, participants sat in a circle and cited various statistics related to hunger: 250,000 children worldwide die of malnutrition each week; the top 20 percent of people on the global economic ladder enjoy 60 times the goods and services as the bottom 20 percent; and hunger persists even though there is enough food in the world to feed everyone.

Also during this discussion, Cheryl Grady recalled the long lines of people she would see waiting for food during



Matt Keppel, who represented the highest socioeconomic level, sits down to a steak dinner.

her one-year volunteer project at Lazarus House, an emergency shelter located in Lawrence, Mass. Due to limited supplies, she said, people would begin getting in line at 8 a.m. even though the distribution process didn't begin until 5 p.m.

"That's what we do for concert tickets," said Smith, referring to the lines that often form outside box offices when huge musical acts come to town.

At Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave., similar efforts to mark Hunger Awareness Week were made by the college campus ministry's Hunger Concerns

committee.

A fast, in which dining-hall fare consisted of soup and water, was held on Nov. 17. This event was followed by a thanksgiving service.

"It's an opportunity for the Nazareth community to gather and give thanks to God for all the blessings we receive, and to remember our call to share all those gifts with all those in need," said Sister Kathleen Weider, SSJ, director of campus ministry.

Similarly, Father Paul F. English, CSB, St. John Fisher's campus-ministry director, cited the need for people to "become more aware in our society of the way we consume more than we need, and the way we can be insensitive to the needs of others."

Funds from both the St. John Fisher and Nazareth fasts will benefit OXFAM-America (Oxford Committee for Family Relief), an international group which serves to alleviate hunger worldwide.

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Four students from Rochester-based diocesan elementary schools are winners in the Rochester Fire Department's annual Fire Prevention Week poster contest.

Those students include Jason Ziarnowski and Nathan Clancy, both third-graders at St. John the Evangelist School on Humboldt Street; Maria Oberst, a fourth-grader at St. Andrew's School; and Charlie Ferrra, a fifth-grader at Holy Family School.

Each winner's classroom received \$125 for a pizza party and either a class project or field trip. More than 500 posters were submitted by students in grades 1-6 from public and private schools in Rochester.

Adam Cerio, a freshman at Elmira Notre Dame High School, has been named as this year's scholarship winner by the Sacred Heart Ladies of St. Anthony's Church, where Adam is a parishioner.

In addition to the scholarship, the Sacred Heart Ladies made a donation to Elmira Notre Dame.

Amy Lombardo, a junior at Bishop Kearney High School, was selected to attend the Young Leaders National Conference in Washington, D.C.

Held Nov. 1-6, the conference brought together 350 high-school students from across the country who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit.

Several recent graduates of Aquinas Institute have been named AP Scholars due to their exceptional results on last spring's Advanced Placement examinations. The tests were taken in May.

Earning AP Scholar with Distinction Awards (average of 3.5 or above all AP exams taken) were Cori Chase, Matthew DiPaola, Erik Gustafson, Robert Murphy and Martin Romeo.

AP Scholar with Honor Awards (3.25 average or above) were achieved by Jeffrey Cox, Christian DiPaola, Matthew Owens and Reginald Royston.

AP Scholar Award winners (grades of 3.0 or above) were earned by Rebecca Clar, Kelly Cutler, Shane Eisenman, Kristi Gaylord, Patrick O'Toole and Kelly Rogalski.

WIN A FREE ALBUM OR TAPE

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
What Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter performed the soundtrack to *The Lion King*?

ANSWER: _____

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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School: _____

Rules: One correct entry will be selected at random to receive a gift certificate for a free album or tape of the recipient's choice from the House of Guitars

WINNER: Catherine Reed of Rochester correctly identified John Mellencamp as the pop star who's back on the charts with his recent release, *Wild Night*.

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