

Students spend recess in service

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Certain St. John Fisher College students have been looking over their right shoulders a lot recently.

They can't seem to shake the feeling that supernatural beings — possibly angels — are riding on them all the time.

If they're feeling uncomfortable with this angelic presence, the Fisher students have no one to blame but themselves — and a family living in rural West Virginia whose house the students repaired during spring break.

According to a letter from the Beamer family, its members have prayed that each of the students be protected by an angel placed by God on their right shoulder. The family was grateful to the students for — among other things — jacking up their house's porch roof.

"You have served as a witness that not all kids are out to mess up and raise havoc," the Beamers wrote. "That you can do a job and do it well."

Along with Father Paul English, CSB, director of campus ministry, and Cheryl Grady, campus minister, eight Fisher students performed their work as part of their stay at Nazareth Farm, outside of Charleston. Staffed and run by volunteers, the farm was established by a priest from the Syracuse diocese 16 years ago and has since helped dozens of Charleston-area families in the impoverished region improve their living conditions.

The Fisher group stayed at the farm the week of March 5-11 during the college's spring break. Along with groups of students from Boston College and Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., the Fisher group helped repair and build various sections of three West Virginian families' homes, including the Beamers.

The Fisher students responded enthusiastically when asked why they chose to spend spring break serving others instead of relaxing themselves.

"I told people it would definitely beat sitting at home and watching TV all day," answered Matt Keppel, a sophomore computer science major from Dunkirk, N.Y.

"I just love volunteering," said Colleen McNichol, a sophomore psychology major from just outside of Buffalo. "It's a relaxing time for me. It makes me forget about my troubles ... I love to see the smiles on people's faces when you do something for them."

Several of the students had previous-



Provided photo

St. John Fisher College students, along with Father Paul English, CSB, and students from Boston College and Omaha's Creighton University spent their March 5-11 spring break repairing area homes near West Virginia's Nazareth Farm.

ly volunteered for community service projects and were ready for the kind of poverty they encountered in West Virginia.

Chris Hascup, a freshman psychology major from Cooperstown, said she had seen worse poverty in the back hills around her hometown. Meanwhile, Kenyan native Geoffrey Kilonzo, a freshman business management major, noted that he had seen similar rural poverty in his African homeland. "To me it was not a big change, it was just a normal way of life," he commented.

The students also experienced their own kind of poverty during the week, according to Father English.

Women were encouraged to eschew makeup and banish worries about their personal appearance.

Everybody was allowed only one shower during the week in the farmhouse which contains no TVs or stereos.

Bereft of material diversions, everyone on the farm turned to conversation as the primary means of entertainment, they noted.

"It just completely tore down the walls that prevent people from getting to know one another," Keppel said.

"Everybody was friendly," added Kilonzo.

All of the students repeated several times that the trip to Nazareth Farm created an emotional high from which they had yet to come down.



Paul Farney, a St. John Fisher College senior, took part in the volunteer efforts near Nazareth Farm over his spring break.

"The last night a lot of people stayed up ... just because we didn't want to say goodbye," remarked Hascup who said she may return to the farm in May.

For Keppel, it's too early to return to the farm, but he may consider volunteering there for an extended period of time in two or more years.

"The way I feel right now, this could not be topped," he concluded.

said, is political posturing.

"If you really want to have something debated, you almost have to present people with such a negative position that they will say is so unacceptable they are willing to make some other changes," Carballada suggested.

In remembering the range of his activities, Carballada praised his wife of nearly 37 years, Virginia, who allowed him the time to be involved in so many different areas. He also credits God with having given him so much.

"I believe good things happen to us so we can be helpful," Carballada said. "I believe there is something (God) wants me to do."

Carballada

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Canisius College, then through his volunteer work with the Buffalo-area Association for Retarded Children.

"That got me interested in children with disabilities," he observed. That in turn led to his involvement with the "education of children, especially those from economically disadvantaged situations," he added.

That ultimately led to Carballada's election to the Board of Regents in 1978.

As a member of the board, Carballada had proposed testing a voucher sys-

tem to allow inner-city children to attend the public or private schools of their choice to see if it would help their educational achievement. He agreed to put it aside when he was elected chancellor in 1991. Now that he is no longer chancellor — he's still a member of the board until 1999 — he will likely reintroduce the voucher idea, he said.

Carballada also believes that the board will continue to exist — despite threats made by Gov. George Pataki to do away with it. Nor does he believe proposed budgets cuts to the state's Education Department will ultimately be to the extent the Republican governor has suggested. A lot of what is going on, he

Habitat Walk scheduled for April 15 in Rochester

ROCHESTER — Youth groups, other church organizations and individuals are invited to participate in the first-ever "Habitat Walk" on Saturday, April 15.

This event will raise funds for Habitat for Humanity affiliates in Monroe, Wayne and Ontario counties. Proceeds will be put toward home-building projects to assist low-income families.

The walk is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the Skyway connecting the Rochester Riverside Convention Center and Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn. Volunteers will walk through the Skyway to Midtown Plaza, then on to Xerox Tower and Rochester Telephone before circling back. There will also be a handicapped-accessible route.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. are serving as co-chairs of the Habitat Walk.

Prizes will be awarded to participants with the highest pledge totals. To receive a registration form, or for details, please call 716/423-7441.

Mercy High raffle set to pick winner April 5

BRIGHTON — A grand prize of a 1995 Buick Skylark or \$12,000 is available in the annual raffle being conducted by Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road.

Winning tickets will be drawn on Wednesday, April 5. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased by calling Mercy's development office at 716/288-7120. Entrants must be at least 18 years old to participate. There will be a minimum of 700 tickets and a maximum of 3,000 sold.

Newark school requests high-tech hardware aid

NEWARK — St. Michael's School, 320 S. Main St., has joined the "A+America: Technology for Schools Program," and is asking parents and area residents to collect proofs of purchase for A+America-sponsor company products and services to help the school earn free computers, software, televisions, video cassette recorders and other technology for the school.

For information about the program, contact Jackie VanHalle at the school office, 315/332-2297.

Knights launch campaign to recruit new members

In an effort to recruit new members, the Knights of Columbus have scheduled a statewide "Super K of C Sunday" for this Sunday, April 2.

Using the theme, "In Solidarity With Our Priests," local Knights will be recruiting new and former members at all parishes throughout New York state. Those interested may contact their local K of C.

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