

Teens urged to confront violence with Christ

Geneseo event draws hundreds

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GENESEO — To be fully alive in Christ, there can be no room for violence in one's heart and soul.

Yet to effectively spread Christ's love in an increasingly violent world is a complex task at best.

But not impossible, concluded participants at the Diocesan Youth Convention held Aug. 4-6 at the State University of New York College at Geneseo.

Several weekend activities focused on violence: its forms, how it starts, what it can lead to, and — most importantly —

what young Catholics can do to curb its expansion.

"I'm grateful to have so many teenagers here so we can begin to look at this issue," said Michael Theisen, diocesan youth-ministry coordinator.

The subject will be extensively revisited Nov. 16-19, when diocesan youths travel to Minnesota for the National Catholic Youth Convention. This year's national gathering will feature a special youth congress on violence with several U.S. bishops also participating, including Rochester's Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Shauna Cole, 14, a parishioner at Avon's St. Agnes Church, said violence is a topic that "never really comes up"



among her and her peers. Yet during a small-group session held Sunday, many examples of violence in their communities were cited by Shauna, 15-year-old Josie Armeli of St. Ann's Church in Hornell, and three other St. Agnes youths: Ashley Freeman, Sarah Freeman and Lindsey Dolgos, all 15.

Results of a "violence survey," which organizers had begun conducting Friday night, were also examined Sunday. Among the findings, close to half the respondents said they'd been abused physically or knew of someone who had. Approximately the same percentage indicated they'd attempted suicide or knew of someone who had.

While the number of those touched by suicide was disturbing, Eileen Meyers, 17, also pointed out it was good "after feeling so low they're here to tell us about it." Eileen is a parishioner at Spencerport's St. John the Evangelist Church.

In a Saturday workshop conducted by Rochester Teens for Peace, sobering statistics on abuse and violence were cited: abused children are six times as likely to commit suicide and 24 times as likely to commit sexual-assault crimes.

Teens for Peace announced at the conference plans to expand outside of Monroe County in the next year. A collection taken before Saturday's Mass raised \$400 to support the coalition's mission.

Teens for Peace member Steve Graves, 15, a parishioner at Rochester's Holy Cross Church, said his philosophy is "not to change the world, but just go out and be a more peaceful person than yesterday. The peace will be contagious."

Bishop Clark agreed with Steve that God's love creates a much different chain reaction than what violence breeds.

"Every one of us is an icon of God," Bishop Clark said during another Saturday workshop. He told participants they're "loved and trusted by God," and they should do the same to their peers.

"I believe in building people up," added Amy Wilson, youth minister at Chili's St. Pius X Church and Rochester's St. John the Evangelist Church (Humboldt Street). "If you're feeling good about yourself and the people around you, you tend to be less violent."

The session run by Bishop Clark focused on leaders with admirable traits. Kayte Malik, 14, a parishioner at East Rochester's St. Jerome's Church, cited her mother and basketball star Michael Jordan — the latter "because he followed his dream" of pursuing a second career in professional baseball.

The second annual youth convention attracted 380 diocesan teenagers for the weekend, as well as 51 one-day participants for Saturday workshops and Mass.

Other highlights included the music and witness of keynote speaker Tony Melendez, who was born without hands but plays guitar with his feet; and a memorial area in the college union paying homage to Father David W. Mura, the energetic supporter of diocesan youth activities who died this past spring.

Music from Melendez and the Morningstar music group helped fill the union building with loud singing and hand-clapping all weekend. Spirits also ran high Saturday night during a three-hour stretch of dancing and karaoke.

Not surprisingly, Sunday morning's slew of red-eyed teens and adult chaperones indicated that sleep had not been a big priority over the weekend.

One exception was Bishop Clark, who stayed on campus the entire weekend but said he got enough rest both nights.

After a pause, the bishop explained with a smile, "I wasn't in the dorms."

EDITORS' NOTE: Additional coverage of the Diocesan Youth Convention is scheduled to run on next week's Youth page.

Mercy Foundation plans Ontario trip Aug. 19-20

AUBURN — In conjunction with a visit by the U.S. Marine Corps' Commandant's Band and the Corps' Silent Drill Team, the Mercy Foundation of Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center is sponsoring a bus trip to Kingston, Ontario on Aug. 19-20.

Cost for the trip is \$155 per person for double occupancy, \$210 for single occupancy. A deposit is required when making reservations. Space is limited.

Cost includes round-trip transportation, lunch at the General Wolfe Hotel, a tour of Kingston, accommodations at the Holiday Inn, and admission to a tour of Fort Henry. The special performance of the band and Silent Drill Team will take place at Fort Henry. In addition, there will be a reenactment of the battle between U.S. and British forces for the St. Lawrence River at Kingston Bay.

Refreshments and entertainment will be served on the bus.

The trip will serve as a fundraiser for Mercy Rehab.

For information or reservations, call Paul Salze, 315/252-7778, Jean Gallo, 253-1118, or Mercy Rehab, 253-0551, ext. 318.

Diocese slates seminar on small communities

The Diocese of Rochester is pleased to announce a seminar on Small Christian Communities. The seminar will be held on Aug. 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Kenia College, Kenia Park.

In addition to explaining the benefits of small Christian communities, the seminar will include workshops on such topics as: prayer, meditation, skills, peace, and getting started and staying connected.

Cost for the seminar is \$15 per person, with a maximum of \$50 per parish. Lunch is included.

For information, contact Deacon Claude Leter at 716/328-3210, or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 539.

Mass for Mrs. Clark set for Aug. 14 at cathedral

A memorial Mass for Grace Elizabeth Clark will be celebrated on the first of the feast of the Assumption, Monday, Aug. 14, at 7:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark's mother died on July 26 in her Waterford home.

A reception with the Clark family will follow the liturgy.

Conference celebrates Mary

About 900 people attended the second annual Rochester Marian Conference, held Aug. 5 at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton. Sponsored by the Queen of Peace Apostolate and the Marian Center, the conference featured talks and a panel discussion by Bishop Roman Danylak of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto; Bud Macfarlane (shown pictured at right); Father Albert Shamon; Janice Connell; and Jerome Coniker. "I think the most successful part of (the conference) was that so many people went to confession, good confession, which means the speakers did their jobs," said Linda Josh, the event's co-chairwoman. For conference tapes, call 716/467-8570.



S. John Wilkin/Staff Photographer

Obituary

Sr. Joan Louise Ciampi, S.C.; at 69

Sister Joan Louise Ciampi, S.C., a member of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, died Monday, July 24, 1995, at Convent Station, Florham Park, N.J., following a short illness. She was 69 years old.

Sister Joan is survived by her brother, James; her sister, Virginia Ciampi; and two nephews, James and John, all of Auburn.

A native of Syracuse, Sister Joan was born to the late John and Josephine Ciampi. She entered the Sisters of Charity Sept. 8, 1943.

Sister Joan earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the College of St. Elizabeth, and a master's degree in administration and supervision from Seton Hall University. She spent many years as a teacher and administrator in schools throughout New Jersey, Florida and New York.

In addition, Sister Joan served as a social worker in Hudson County, N.J., at the Maris Stella Retreat House in Skaneateles, N.Y., and on staff at the

St. Frances Residence in Paterson, N.J.

Donations in Sister Joan's memory may be made to the Sisters of Charity Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 476, Convent Station, N.J., 07961.



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