

dig girls) of Summer

Story by staff writer **Mike Latona** • Photographs by staff photographer **Matthew Scott**

Ah, summer. A time to kick back with a glass of lemonade, watch the clouds drift by and listen to the birds chirp.

If this is the period when you're supposed to slow down from a busy school year, someone forgot to tell Rachel Leone.

Rachel doesn't believe free time should turn into wasted time. "Sit down and do nothing? No-o-o-o!" she stated with a shake of her head.

In many cases, Rachel needs to look no further than her own parish, St. Theodore's Church in Gates, for summertime fun.

Rachel attends youth-group meetings on Sundays; plays for the coed parish softball team on Tuesdays; and takes part in what she describes as "hangout nights" on Thursdays at the parish youth room, where she enjoys such activities as pocket billiards and ping-pong. In addition, Rachel often goes on weekend camping trips with friends from St. Theodore's.

"I guess you could say I'm hyper. I just have a lot of energy," said Rachel, 15.

Rachel is certainly not alone when it comes to loading up a summer schedule. For instance, Jeff Parizer, from St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport, has an itinerary that takes him all over Monroe County.

"I've always got to be active. I talk to different people and get involved," Jeff said.

Jeff, 16, plays basketball in a Penfield town league on Mondays and Wednesdays. His squad is made up of several athletes from Bishop Kearney High School, where he is entering his junior year. He also substitutes frequently for basketball teams in Greece and Hilton on Tuesdays — yet the Hilton resident still finds the time to play softball for St. Jude's Church in Gates on the same night.

"I've been at every (softball) game," Jeff said proudly.

Michelle occasionally takes time to enjoy her own backyard pool, where she prefers to remain completely above the water surface.

"That's when I don't have to worry about how my stroke looks," Michelle remarked. "Sometimes I'll take a book out and read it while I'm on my raft. I like Stephen King novels."

most every summer day at indoor facilities.

"This is my third year swimming year-round," she said.

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"That's when I don't have to worry about how my stroke looks," Michelle remarked. "Sometimes I'll take a book out and read it while I'm on my raft. I like Stephen King novels."

Michelle also looks forward to St. Jude's softball to help offset the seriousness of her training schedule.

"This is mainly so I can be with my friends," Michelle remarked during a July 23 game against St. Theodore's. "If I do good, I do good. If not, I'm not going to mope about it."

The parish summer softball league involves nearly 30 churches in Monroe County, as well as St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua. Among the youth groups enjoying this activity is a first-year squad from St. Andrew's Church in Rochester.

"This isn't a bad idea, especially for kids in the city," said St. Andrew's player Nick Joseph, 16.

"They need something to do. Kids are itching to get out or get in trouble; it's usually one of the two."

Teens in rural communities also find their options for summer entertainment to be limited at times, said Brian Lewis of Marion, Wayne County.

"If me and my friends want to go see a movie, we've got to get a parent to take us," said Brian, from the Catholic Community of St. Anne's/St. Gregory's in Palmyra and Marion. Brian, 15, explained that the nearest movie theater is several miles from Marion. Brian said that he varies his

summertime leisure, from social activities such as pickup athletic events and bike riding to annual outings at Boy Scout camps around the state.

Youths in the Cayuga Team Ministry cluster also find themselves going the extra mile for summer entertainment. Six teens from that parish community recently traveled 2½ hours to attend the Diocesan Family Day at Darien Lake Theme Park near Buffalo. The annual event took place July 12.

Both Keeley McGarr, 13, and Maureen Fessenden, 13, agreed that the chance to indulge in Darien's rides and water slides was worth the journey from their quiet community of King Ferry, Cayuga County.

commented.

The camp was one of many summer activities Mike lined up well in advance.

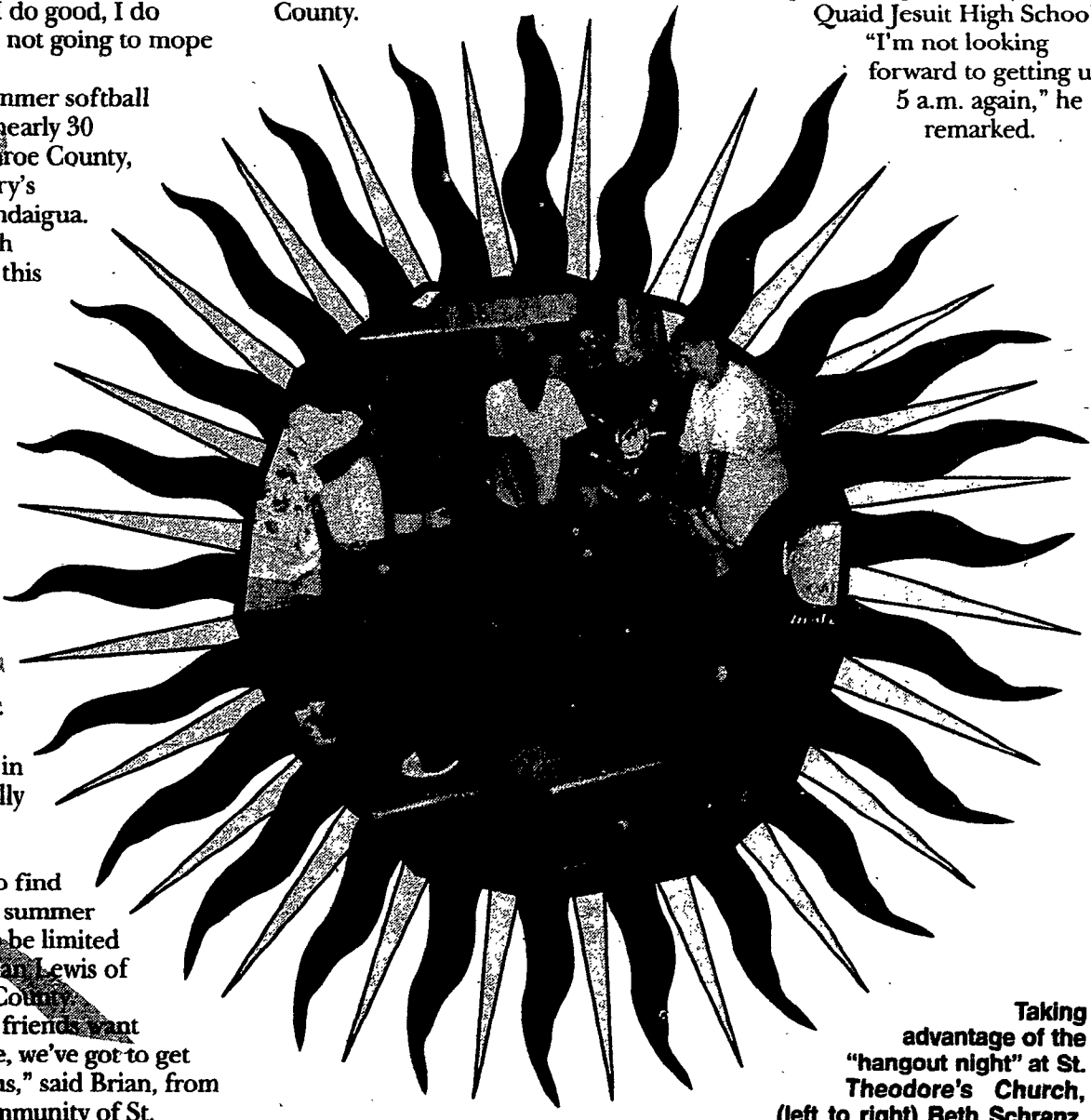
"I make sure I have things to do. This year, I made plans with my friends for a couple of weeks before school ended," Mike said.

However, Mike does allow a certain amount of time for the ultimate leisure activity: snoozing.

"I love to sleep in," said Mike, who enjoys watching late-night television and staying in bed until at least 10:30 a.m. on his quieter summer days.

Yet Mike realizes that these summer slumber sessions will end abruptly in a few weeks, when he begins his sophomore year at McQuaid Jesuit High School.

"I'm not looking forward to getting up at 5 a.m. again," he remarked.



Taking advantage of the "hangout night" at St. Theodore's Church, (left to right) Beth Schranz, Dave LaForce, Father Michael Vollino, Brad Rhaw, Scott Buble, Kevin Arthman, Matt Kwiatkowski and Katie Grammatico enjoy a game of pool.

"You get something to look forward to that you don't do every day," Maureen said.

"People that live around here (Darien) don't think this is a big deal, but we do," Keeley added.

Mike Cammilleri, 15, from St. John's in Spencerport, is another teen who includes long-distance trips in his summer plans. Mike and his brothers James, 14, and Chris, 12, are currently attending the Tradition, Family and Property Camp in Spring Grove, Pa.

This is Mike's second trip to the two-week summer camp for Catholic boys. A typical day, he said, begins with a bugle wake-up call followed by a tightly structured agenda including prayer and catechism classes. Camp participants also take day trips to such places as Washington, D.C.; Gettysburg, Pa.; and Niagara Falls. "It's really strict, but it's fun," Mike

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