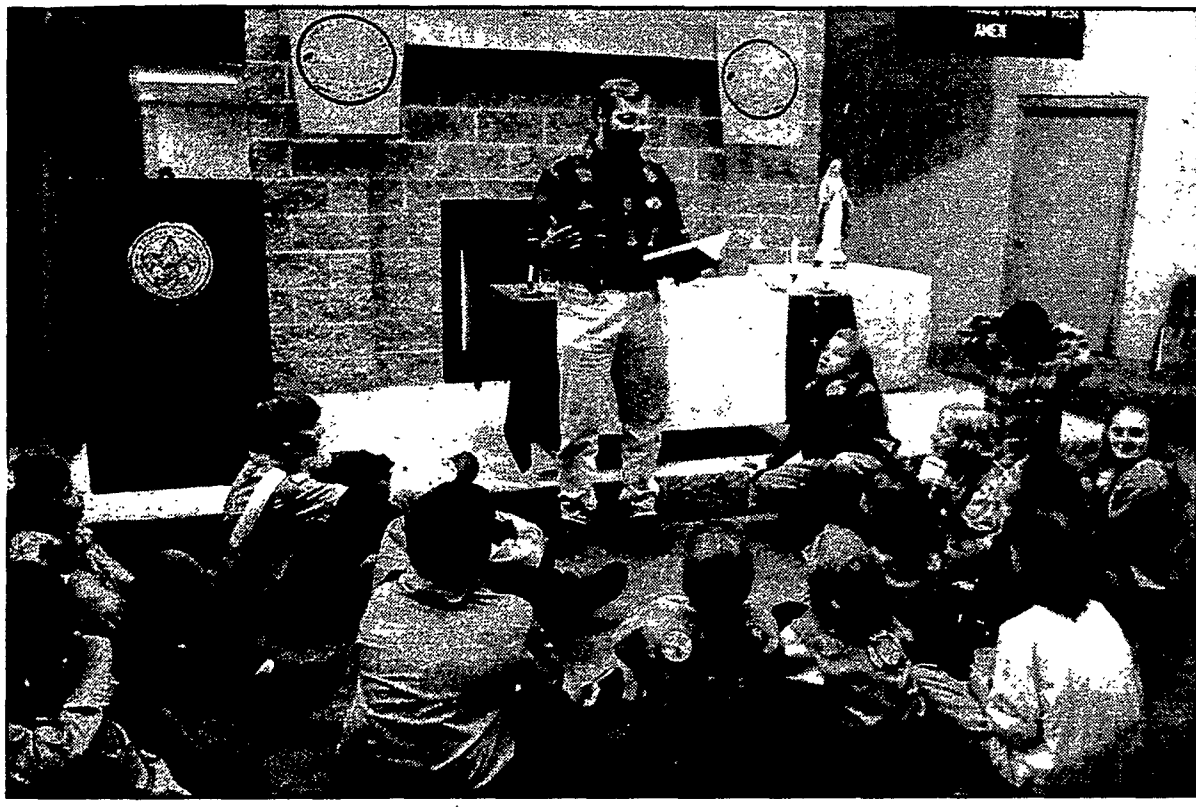


# ESS THROUGH SCOUTING



Father Brian Jeffers talks to a group of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts at the altar during the Catholic Scouting Retreat held Sept. 28 at the J. Warren Cutler Reservation, Ontario County.



Willard Ashmore (left), a parishioner at St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario, demonstrates rosary making to a group of Scouts at the retreat.



Enjoying some free time at the retreat, Mike George of Webster swings through the obstacle course.

"We work well together. We know what needs to be done and we do it," said Stephen, from the Church of Christ the King.

Kelly Hinds, Chip and Stephen were among 300 participants at the annual Catholic Scouting Retreat sponsored by the Otetiana Boy Scout Council of Monroe County. The retreat for Boy and Girl Scouts was held Sept. 22-24 at the J. Warren Cutler Reservation in Ontario County.

Otetiana is one of five Boy Scout councils located in the Diocese of Rochester. According to Ed Winterkorn, co-chairperson for the diocesan Catholic Committee for Scouting, a total of 2,790 youths and 1,057 adults are currently active in Catholic-affiliated Boy Scout groups among the five councils.

Winterkorn added that similar

statistics are not available on the level of Catholic Girl Scouting in the diocese, but that he is attempting to compile those numbers.

Winterkorn noted that the diocese has increased its promotional efforts for Catholic Scouting in recent years. For example, he said, the Scouting committee sends letters signed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark to parish youth contacts. In addition, the committee promotes an annual religious emblem award for Boy and Girl Scouts. The next ceremony for Scouts who complete the emblem program is scheduled for March 2, 1997, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Though the benefits of Scouting are many, Tom from Corning pointed out that Scouting may not be everybody's cup of tea.

"There's a certain type that goes

through and finishes it, but there are those that are in it for the social aspects. And that's no

problem; that's to be expected," said Tom, who is refurbishing a voting booth as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Scouting for Tom, on the other hand, has never lost its appeal.


"You've got to prioritize what you want. Scouting may not come first, but it should come a close second," he said.

"Stick with it," Kelly Hinds advised. "You'll have a great time."

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