

WORLD & NATION

Recent studies disclose varied portraits of youth

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — As thousands of American youths gathered in Paris for World Youth Day festivities, they and the millions who stayed home came under close scrutiny from researchers and pollsters of every stripe.

One poll showed that American youths were generally optimistic about their future. One study showed U.S. young people are starting to smoke marijuana at earlier ages.

Another study showed that school-based drug abuse prevention and sex education programs haven't worked as well as their designers had intended.

Still another suggested that when families eat meals together at least five days a week, youths get into less trouble than in families that eat together only three days a week.

"Parents have a much greater ability to influence what their kids are doing than their kids realize," said Holy Cross Father Edward "Monk" Malloy, president of the University of Notre Dame, speaking at an Aug. 13 press conference releasing youth drug use figures.

Father Malloy said with the evidence of drug use among youths now given a high profile as a result of the study, conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, "now we can mobilize our society to do something about it."

Some of the statistics could jar even the most jaded.

The age of initiation to drug use has never been younger, the drug study said. Smoking of cigarettes and marijuana among the young has risen during the 1990s.

Cigarettes were classified in the study as a "gateway drug," meaning that those who use it are more inclined to sample stronger drugs. And 12.7 percent of 12-year-olds admitted to having tried marijuana.

The report said youths are more likely to resist drugs when: their parents are actively involved in their lives; they have an active religious or spiritual life; they are optimistic about their personal futures and believe that their lives will be at least as good as their parents'; they view marijuana and drug use overall as dangerous; and they are engaged in their school studies.

The report listed several ways the religious community can help drive down the incidence of drug use.

Among them: Make substance abuse education a regular part of youth groups; educate the clergy and the laity about substance abuse and addiction; reach out to teens who use alcohol, tobacco and drugs; provide support for families coping with substance abuse; and consider forming an chapter of Alateen, a youth offshoot of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The school-based Drug Abuse Resistance Education program operating in public schools does well at keeping young people from getting started with drugs, according to a study by Jodie B. Ullman and Judith A. Stein.

But the program didn't fare so well in getting young people who were already using drugs to stop.

Much the same is true with school-based sex education classes, according to a separate study by researchers Diana P. Oliver, William O. Dwyer, and Frank C. Leeming.

Those young people who had not started sexual activity at the time of their sex education delayed their initiation into sex



CNS Photo by Nancy Wiehac

Pilgrims await pope

Sean McDonnell, 23, from Troy, Mich., holds up a cross while waiting for Pope John Paul II to arrive and greet World Youth Day pilgrims in Paris Aug. 21. Hundreds of thousands of youth — including teens from the Diocese of Rochester — gathered in Paris for the event, culminated with an Aug. 24 Mass attended by an estimated 1 million people. Rochester teens will report on their experiences at the gathering in next week's *Catholic Courier*.

longer than students who had not been given sex education instruction, the study said.

But those who had already been sexually active did not show any marked decline in sexual activity despite the sex education.

Obtaining different results was the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Teen Star program. According to Ed Stehle, a staff member of the National Association of Catholic School Teachers, 50 percent of those teens who had been sexually active stopped once they went through the program.

In a mealtime study titled "Supper's On!" researchers Blake Sperry Bowden and Jennie M. Zeisz said, "Family mealtimes are strongly related to adjustment."

"It remains unclear, however, what mechanisms are at play during family mealtimes that lead to adolescent adjustment," they added.

And the Horatio Alger Association weighed in with its annual survey of American youth, showing them to be optimistic about the future, especially their own.

Pope sets date to declare St. Therese doctor of church

PARIS (CNS) — Pope John Paul II said that for the first time in his 19-year pontificate, he will proclaim a doctor of the church: St. Therese of Lisieux.

"Therese's teaching, a true science of love, is the luminous expression of her knowledge of the mystery of Christ and of her personal experience of grace," the pope said, announcing at World Youth

Day in Paris that he would make the formal proclamation at the Vatican Oct. 19, World Mission Sunday.

The French saint, known as "the Little Flower," will become the 33rd doctor of the church and the third woman to be recognized with the title in honor of her holiness and the influence of her teaching on spirituality in the church today.

CALENDAR

All Dioceses

Religious Activity

■ **SEP. 3-7 — Marian Conference:** Pittsburgh, PA; speakers include Fr. Albert Shamon; call 412/561-4929, 412/327-3713; or 412/922-2831; evenings only.

Chemung Schuyler

Fundraisers

■ **SEP. 3, 4 — Silent auction:** sponsored by St. Joseph's Auxiliary; St. Joseph's Hospital, Cusick Room, 555 E. Market St., Elmira; previews, Wed. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Thur. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; reception & auction, Thur. 7 p.m.; all proceeds to benefit St. Joseph's Hospital; 607/737-7819.

■ **SAT, SEP. 6 — Rummage sale:** to benefit Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen, 1310 W. Church St., Elmira; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Religious Activities

■ **THU, SEP. 4 — Rosary:** Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Market & High Sts., Elmira; 11:30 a.m. every Thurs.

■ **SUN, SEP. 7 — Family prayer:** and fellowship; St. Mary

Our Mother Church, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads; dish-to-pass dinner, noon (bring own place setting); video series, 1-2 p.m.; for more information call Joan Cushing, 607/562-3314.

Monroe County

Fundraisers

■ **FRI, SEP. 5 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 20 Walk-A-Thon to benefit DePaul; at DePaul's Continuing Day Treatment/Administrative facility, 1931 Buffalo Road, Gates; for information on walking or sponsoring, call Arna Tygart, 716/426-8000, ext. 3316.

■ **SUN, SEP. 14 — Walk:** to benefit St. Bridget's Church; from St. Bridget's Church, 14 Mark St. to Seneca Park, Rochester; 1 p.m.; call Dolly Lauria, 716/426-6636.

Health

■ **THU, SEP. 4 — Blood pressure screenings:** Park Hope Nursing Home (dining room), 1556 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester; 2-3 p.m.; no appointment necessary.

Meetings

■ **TUE, SEP. 2 — Meeting:** of Alzheimer's Disease Support Group; Park Ridge Nursing Home Conference Room, 1555 Long Pond Rd., Rochester; 7-9

p.m.; 716/723-7217.

■ **TUE, SEP. 9 — Lecture:** "The Baseball Moment in American Film"; the Athenaeum; RIT, 30 Fairwood Dr., Rochester; 2 p.m.; to register call 716/292-8989.

■ **WED, SEP. 10 — Meeting:** Rosary Society of Holy Family Parish, Pine Room of school, 899 Jay St., Rochester; 7:30 p.m.

Religious Activities

■ **MON, SEP. 1 — Registration deadline:** for monthly workshop "Befriending the Painful Feelings"; Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 10, Dec. 8; 7:30-9 p.m.; to register, call 716/336-4370.

■ **TUE, SEP. 2 — Registration deadline:** for 6-week Scripture study series "The Psalms, Songs From the Heart"; starting Sept. 9; 2-4 p.m.; call 716/336-4370.

■ **FRI, SEP. 5 — Registration deadline:** for Sept. 12-14 retreat "Daily Embracing Health and Well-Being"; Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, 402 Rogers Pkwy., Rochester; to register, call 716/336-4370.

■ **MON, SEP. 8 — Charismatic Mass:** Christ the King Church, 445 Kings Hwy. S., Irondequoit; 8 p.m.

■ **MON, SEP. 8 — Rosary:** in honor of Mary's birthday; Wooded Area Shrine, 237 Rye Rd., Greece; 7 p.m.; with Fr. Dennis Bonsignore; bring lawn chair.

■ **SUN, SEP. 14 —**

Dedication: of Memorial to the Unborn; sponsored by Knights; St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4536 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester; 2 p.m. Mass, 3 p.m. dedication, 5 p.m. buffet at Diplomat Party House, Lyell Ave., Rochester; \$20; send check payable to K of C Memorial, c/o Arthur J. Harris, 210-H Westview Commons Blvd., Rochester, NY 14624, before Sept. 7.

Social Activities

■ **AUG. 30, 31 — Play:** "Twelfth Night"; Shakespeare in the Garden; by George Eastman House and Finger Lakes Shakespeare Co.; Eastman House, West Garden, 900 East Ave., Rochester; 716/271-3361.

■ **SEP. 4, 6 — Auditions:** for Rochester Oratorio Society; Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1040 East Ave., Rochester; 716/473-2234.

■ **FRI, SEP. 5 — Reservation deadline:** for Sept. 16 dinner, presentation of Leo Holmsten Human Life Award; sponsored by Rochester Diocese, right-to-life organizations; Anthony Room, Four Points Hotel, 120 E. Main St., Rochester; call 716/544-4843.

Seneca Cayuga

Meetings

■ **TUE, SEP. 2 — Meeting:**

Wounded Healers' Bereavement Support Group; St. Joseph's School, 17 Clymer St., Auburn; 7:30-9 p.m.; 315/252-7661. Call Jeannette Berretta, RN, or Sister Christine Lloyd at 315/252-7661.

Steuben County

Social Activity

■ **SAT, SEP. 6 — Chicken barbecue:** St. Joachim's Church, 34 W. Main St., Canisteo; 4-7 p.m.; raffles and games.

Yates Ontario Wayne

Social Activities

■ **SUN, AUG. 31 — Concert:** Crazy Firemen; Sodus Point Lighthouse Museum, 7606 Ontario St., Sodus Point; German and big band music; 3 p.m.; free.

■ **SAT, SEP. 6 — Irish Fair:** St. Patrick's Church, 52 Main St., Macedon; games, live entertainment, lawn sale, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., barbecue dinner, 5-7 p.m.,