

Youth convention leaves awesome impression

Wow! Do those kids have energy! There were about 16,000 teens at the National Catholic Youth Convention in Kansas City this past weekend. It was a thrill to be with them. Just to watch them as they participated in the games and songs was joy enough. But to see them meet and attend to one another was a special pleasure. I cannot put a number on the times I heard a youngster say that it was awesome to see so many other kids who shared their values and goals.

As you might guess, the planners made a major investment in the sight and sound systems that supported the plenary sessions. There were videos, musical groups, dancers, storytellers, speakers, song and prayer and games. Clearly, participation and interaction was the goal of planners and leaders. They could not help but to have been pleased with the response.

Pardon any possible bias when I tell you that it was a pleasure to be with the delegation from the Diocese of Rochester. They came with a lively spirit and dove into everything with their usual enthusiasm. If there were any who were disappointed by the gathering, I did not run into them.

I had three kinds of involvement with young people at Kansas City. With the other 22 bishops who attended I participated in the Youth Forum, which was held within the larger Convention. This forum gathered young representatives from all parts of our country who spent much of their convention time talking about what they asked of the

along
the way



By BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK

church, what they would like to give to the church and how, together, we might shape the church in a new millennium.

The second association I had was with the young people from the eight dioceses of New York state that comprise Region II. That group of nearly 1,000 people gathered for the Eucharistic Liturgy on Friday evening. Bishop Howard Hubbard presided and I preached the homily. Third, I joined our diocesan delegation for night prayer on Thursday and Friday evening.

All three associations were enjoyable stimulating experiences. They got me involved at the time and still keep me thinking about the precious gift of the young among us. If you ever tend to think of young people as the future of the church, please go to one of their gatherings. You will realize that right now they are a blessing to us and should be welcome to bring their good gifts and strong faith to all parts of our life.

I have many happy memories of my very short time in Kansas City. ... I think of the multicolored, propeller topped caps worn by our delegation. Everyone wanted to trade for them. I held on to mine until the very end. Then I gave it to the daughter of a woman who was part of the youth group in a parish in which I served in the Diocese of Albany. She loved the hat so much I could not deny her. ... At O'Hare Airport in Chicago Beth Palumbos came to say hello. Beth is from our diocese. Currently she is serving as youth ministry assistant with a Capuchin Fathers youth program in Garrison, New York. ... Lynne Staropoli Boucher, whom I knew when she was a little one, now leading the mighty Saint Louis Parish delegation to Kansas City. ... Josh Harris from Saint Mary's, Bath, who sat nearby at one of the general assemblies and who impressed me by his kindness to me and to all in the area we shared. ... The generosity of all of the adult leaders who accompanied our delegation. They were energetic, patient, joyful and altogether the kind of people who have given such a boost to youth ministry among us. ... Bishop Ray Boland who invited the bishops and convention leaders to join him for a Kansas City barbecue after the regional liturgies on Friday evening. ... Most of all, the gifted, flexible, thoughtful, exuberant, faithful, prayerful, fun loving, generous teens who made the Kansas City experience one that I shall remember for a long time.

Peace to all.

Kids' Answers from page 12

Because of our baptism, we are able to live a new life.

The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests

Will you pray for a priest each day?

Jesus' Prayer for His Priests

O Jesus, by Thy most loving Heart, I implore Thee to inflame with zeal for Thy love and glory all the priests of the world, all missionaries and those whose office it is to preach Thy word, that on fire with holy zeal, they may snatch souls from the devil and lead them into the shelter of Thy Heart, where for ever they may glorify Thee.

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Prayer Suggestions: Mass, Rosary, Fasting, Day Offering, Eucharistic Adoration, Offering, Offerings, Divine Mercy Chaplet

December, 1997

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Rev. Fathers	1 Priests on Sabbatical	2 Theodore J. Auble	3 Regis Tompkins, OCSO	4 John L. Dugan, CSB	5 William V. Spilly	6 Most Rev. Matthew H. Clark, DD
7 Pope John Paul II	8 Daniel McMullin	9 Neil R. Miller	10 Walter Plominski	11 Matthew A. Kawiak	12 Daniel F. Holland	13 William J. McCurdy, SJ
14 Anthony F. Callmeri	15 Richard R. Brickler	16 Thomas Bond, OCSO	17 Edward J. Dillon	18 Paul Geraghty, OSB	19 Raymond H. Fleming	20 Timothy E. Horan
21 Leo J. Mans	22 Vincent P. Panepinto	23 Charles L. Mockevicius	24 Robert F. McNamara	25 John V. Rosse	26 Thomas H. Watts	27 Gary L. Tyman
28 Charles F. Mulligan	29 Michael F. Conboy	30 John A. Colacino, C.P.P.S.	31 William A. Burns	Please send donations to: MPRP, 70-A Green Knolls Dr., Rochester, NY 14620-4746		

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