

on the MOVE

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Living competition a rest

Brian Eckstein pointed toward some ice blocks, walk from Aquinas Institute and McQuaid Jesuit High School. Was a brawl to follow.

"We've never been here, and that means I should probably dislike them," Brian, a junior at Bishop Kearney High School, told a group of 20 friends.

They were gathered around a lunch table that had been set up for the retreat. The group was made up of students from five different schools, which during the day retreat at May 4. The first time they met, the "Anti-Line Buds" took place at Camp Eastman, Irondequoit.

The students, each from Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney, McQuaid Jesuit, Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Mercy, mingled along with the retreat.

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When asked about what seem to be much of the ill feelings between schools, some students noted: For instance, Patty Moesle, a senior at Nazareth Academy, and Meaghan Doyle, a sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy, said their schools are targets of taunts about lesbianism simply because those are all-girls' schools.

And Nia Wallace, a junior at Aquinas Institute, said she's heard McQuaid Jesuit jokingly referred to as "a gay school, because it's all boys." The reason for such taunts, Nia ventured, is so that each school can "make ourselves feel superior."

The groups also noted that inter-school rivalries exist because Catholic schools recruit many of the same students. Sports play a big role as well, they said.

"We're a very competitive school," said Nia, 16. She noted that in boys' sports, Aquinas' rivalry is especially fierce with McQuaid.

To work past these differences, retreatants suggested collaborating on such events as service projects, liturgies and dances. Many endorsed having future retreats for the entire student bodies.

However, Brian warned, not every student at Bishop Kearney might be wild about the idea of hanging out with his or her rivals.

"I have no problem coming to something like this. But other people are like, 'You have to hate them, just because they're from other schools,'" said Brian, 17, a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Church in Irondequoit.

Brian feels the schools should build each other up because of their Catholic roots. For instance, he said he supported the Aquinas hockey team this winter by attending games during AQ's march to a state title.

"Catholic schools - it's our own community," Brian said.

Patty from Nazareth Academy said she sensed community in her small group at the retreat, remarking that she "didn't even pay attention" to which schools the other students were from.

"After a while, you know the person and don't care. This just sums it all up - you can't stereotype a group," said Patty, 18, who attends St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville.

"We get to see how much we really have in common. Some of these people I've never met before," Nia added.

"This builds trust between people. And trust builds unity," remarked Tim Deckman, 16, a sophomore at McQuaid Jesuit.

At the same time, Tim said, he sees nothing wrong with a certain amount of rivalry between Catholic



Aquinas students Jennifer Anderson, left, and Faith Plectan, cheer on other students during a game of speed at a retreat for five Catholic schools May 4 at Camp Eastman, Irondequoit.



Colin Orr, left, of McQuaid High School, and Katie Adams of Mercy High School, act in a skit on peer pressure.



Terra Barley, left, and Kim Finger, Nazareth Academy students, burn papers on which each had written her greatest weakness during the Mass ending the retreat.



From left, Sarah Eksten (Nazareth), left, Patty Moesle (Nazareth), Souvann Loeng (Nazareth), Brian Eastman (Bishop Kearney), Steve Scott (Bishop Kearney), and Marissa Sobolewski (Mercy) take part in a coordination and cooperation skit.

schools.

"If there isn't a little competition, it's just like gym sports," said Tim, a parishioner at St. Joseph's Church in Rush.

The key is to keep rivalries friendly, said Meaghan from Mercy.

"Competition is good, but when it gets to fights, that's absurd," commented Meaghan, 15, a parishioner at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield.

COMING NEXT WEEK
Teen summer counselors