



A Northwest Medical Teams member assists Nurije Sejdlu while her grandsons look on at a refugee camp in Tirana, Albania, in mid-May. Gerry Lewin/CNS

## Refugees flood camps

By Robert Pfohman  
Catholic News Service

SKODER, Albania — When the exhausted grandmother straggled into this overflowing refugee camp with her daughter and eight grandchildren in tow, she received urgent medical care from volunteer doctors and nurses with Northwest Medical Teams of Portland, Ore.

Tears welled up in Nurije Sejdlu's eyes, and she winced in pain as she tried to lift her arm so that nurses could position a blood-pressure monitoring cuff. She had injured her shoulder during the time since she and her family were evicted at gunpoint by Serb police from their home in nearby Kosovo.

As several of her grandchildren watched solicitously, the 63-year-old woman recounted her tale of terror through an interpreter to Vicki Barnham, a Northwest Medical Teams volunteer nurse practitioner from Battle Ground, Wash.

Northwest Medical is one of more than 104 private relief agencies working in Skoder. Also heavily involved are Baltimore-based Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, and the Catholic relief agency Caritas.

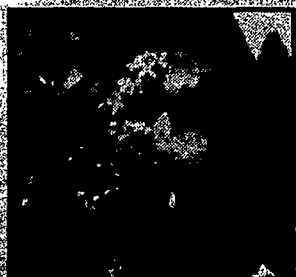
The Sejdlu family's story was a familiar one: Serb police told them they had 10 minutes to pack their belongings. The adult men and older boys were detained, and the

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### Inside this week



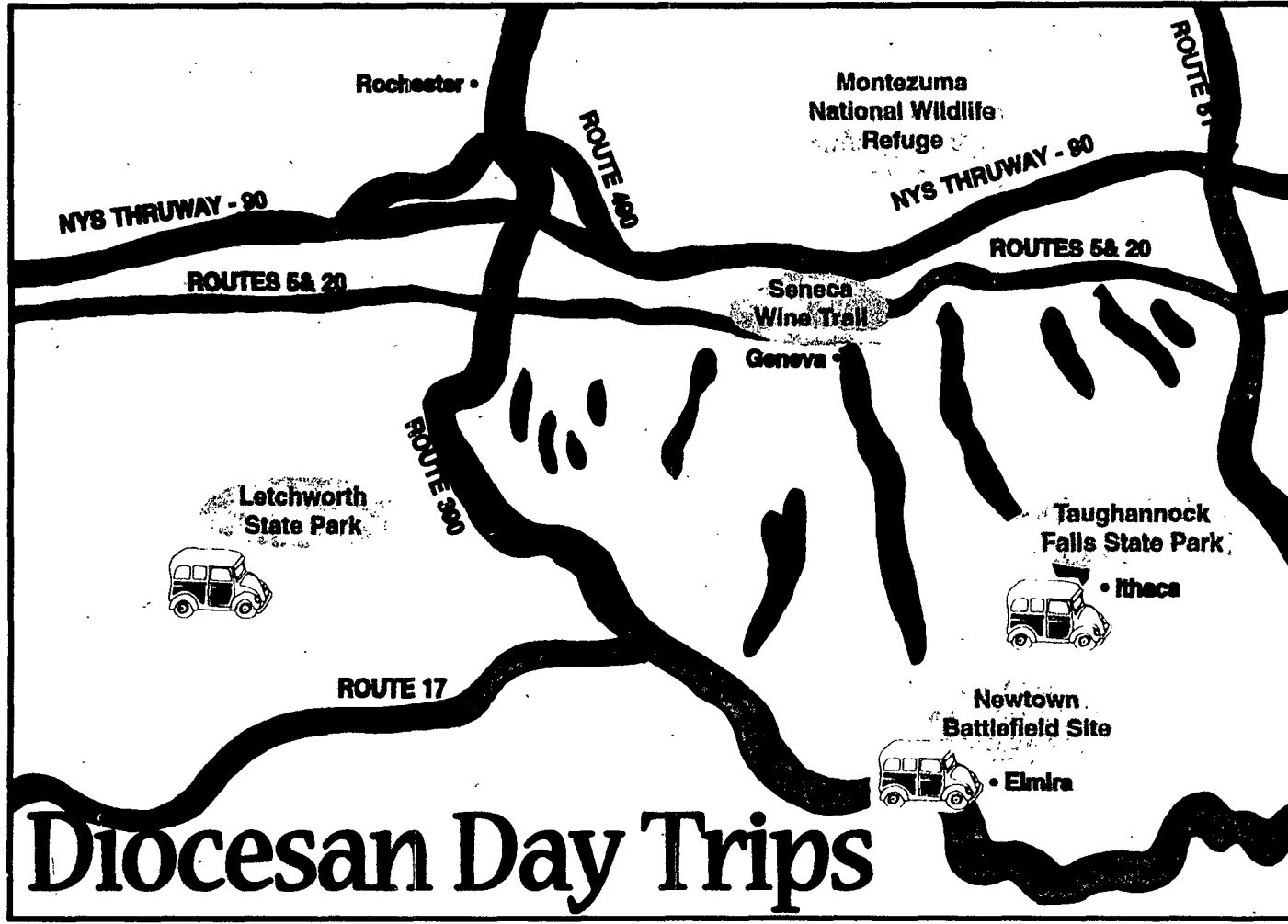
### Scents, events of summer



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## Diocesan Day Trips

Listening to Father George Heyman recite the wonders of Ithaca's gorges and parks, Sister Elise Quigley, RSM, commented afterward, "I've lived here 16 years and I've never seen all those places." He in contrast, has been there two years, as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, where Sister Quigley is secretary.

Often the best summer vacation spots are indeed in our "back yards."

Grace Schafer, a St. Alphonsus parishioner in Auburn, is 81 and has lived all her life in the area. Yet only when a daughter, grown up and moved away, needed information from her father, did she discover the many wonders of the diocese. Most often mentioned were wine tours around Seneca Lake, the Taughannock Falls State Park in Ithaca — and the falls have a 175-foot vertical drop.

"The thing is sometimes you see one of things and you never think about going," she said. The house guide, she added, "was absolutely marvelous."

She especially urged people to visit Mon-

*"As the rising sun is clear to all, so the glory of the Lord fills all his works; Yet even God's holy ones must fail in recounting the wonders of the Lord."*

— Sirach 42

tezuma National Wildlife Refuge, a 7,000-acre bird refuge straddling I-90 northwest of Auburn — where she volunteered for nearly a decade.

To discover these and more of the state's best spots for day trips, the *Catholic Courier* will be around the diocese. Most often mentioned were wine tours around Seneca Lake, the Taughannock Falls State Park in Ithaca — and the falls have a 175-foot vertical drop.

"I think we're very fortunate to have the Finger Lakes in our diocese," said Father Robert Downs, retired in Auburn.

"There's great beauty."

The 11 Finger Lakes, carved deep and narrow by glaciers, lie south of I-90 between Syracuse and Rochester. And, as Father Downs observed, they increasingly draw day-trippers.

"You can pick up the newspaper anytime, and find so many things to do," said MaryEllen Botsford, secretary at St. Joseph School, Auburn. "There is never really any reason to leave your state."

She and her family — husband Ted, and children Kathy, 12 and Hannah, 11 — have discovered favorite sites including the Howe Caverns, off I-88 exit 22 west of Albany and the Herkimer diamond mine off I-90 south of Utica, the child-friendly Misty Meadow Hog Farm off Route 89 south of Seneca Falls, and the Renaissance Festival in Sterling (July 3-Aug. 15, Saturdays-Sundays only).

"With both of us working it is hard to go on vacation," she noted. Instead, the short

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