

# a Young

## Summer is time for growing

Here come those lazy, hazy days of summer, right?

Wrong, if you talk to young adult Catholics in the Diocese of Rochester who see summer as an opportunity to work hard and improve themselves intellectually and spiritually.

Take Casey M. Finnerty, 34, a parishioner at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Ithaca. Finnerty just landed a two-year appointment at Cornell University as a biochemist research associate.

"I work through the summer," said Finnerty, who also belongs to Ithaca Area Young Adult Catholics. The group is made up of 20 young adults drawn from four Ithaca-area Catholic communities — St. Catherine's, Immaculate Conception Church, and the Catholic groups at Cornell and Ithaca College. Summer doesn't mean all work and no play for Finnerty, however.

"I'm going to get more camping done," he said, noting he likes to pitch his tent in the Adirondacks on weekends.

Finnerty also is looking into volunteering with the Big Brothers program, which matches adult males with boys in need of grown-up companions. As a single male with no children, Finnerty hopes the experience will let him explore the world of fathering, albeit, without the responsibility of actually being a parent.

"I've done a lot of babysitting for friends, and people tell me I have a knack for kids," he said.

He has also participated in a number of monastic retreats, both on his own and

Story by Rob Cullivan

Photo by Greg Francis

Under the auspices of Odyssey, the diocesan-sponsored young adults network. Inspired by such experiences, he planned to travel to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert in Abiqui, N.M., either in late August or September.

Founded in 1964 — in part by Benedictine monks from Mount Saviour Monastery outside Elmira — the New

don't take anyone with outstanding debts. "So I have to pay off my loans," he said with a laugh.

Ellen Hughes, 25, a member of St. Mary's Church in Rochester, wants to pay off a different kind of debt — the debt she owes God for all the good fortune she's had.

Hughes, who sings in St. Mary's choir, teaches college-level social studies, science and study skills at Martha Brown Middle School in Fairport. She said she planned to take her teaching skills to Quito, capital of Ecuador, in September, where she will begin a year of volunteer teaching of children and work through the The Workers' Boys' Center. The Catholic center helps families become educated and find employment, she said, and she will teach reading, writing, math and English there.

"I feel I have a lot of blessings, and I hope to give back," she said. "But I know that probably (the Ecuadorans) will influence me more than I will influence them."

She added that she spent a semester in Spain when she was in college, and that Spanish was her minor. Hence, living in South America will give her a chance to bone up on her Spanish, she said.

"I really wanted to immerse myself in another culture and experience another way of living in another culture," she said. Until she travels to Ecuador, she will be teaching summer school in Fairport.

Another teacher who doesn't plan on taking the summer off is Andrea B. Carosa, 26, who instructs students in grades nine through 12 at Honeoye Falls-Lima Senior High School. Carosa, a member of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon, said she will take graduate courses in English education at State University of New York College at Brockport this summer.

Also, she and her sister, Mary Lee, are building a house in Mendon and plan to move into it in September. Carosa, who sings in St. Catherine's choir, plans to continue volunteering to help out with the parish's youth ministry program.

"I was very involved with youth ministry when I was their age," she said of the teenagers in the program. "I learned a lot about who I was, and I want to give back what the church gave me."

She also noted that she was hoping to go on a religious retreat sometime this summer.

"For me, religion isn't just an individual thing," she said. "You experience it through other people, and that's why retreats are effective for me."



From left, Cathy Daniels, Laura Curatolo, Jen Curatolo and Paul Flansburg observe a bluebird nesting area at Thousand Acre Swamp Sanctuary in Penfield, on a May 22 Odyssey hike.

Mexican monastery is dedicated to fostering the contemplative life in an environmentally sensitive setting. For example, Finnerty said, the monastery operates on solar power and uses other ecologically minded technologies.

"I'm a scientist, and science in many ways is very much a monastic type of life," Finnerty said, adding that he has pondered whether he has a vocation to the contemplative life. However, he noted that he learned monasteries generally

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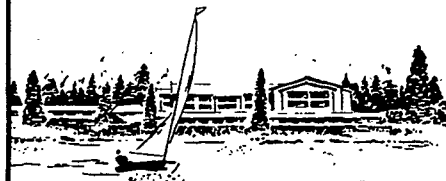
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### Events

Unless otherwise indicated, for information on the following events, call Odyssey — the diocesan-sponsored young adults network — at 716/328-3228 or 1-300-388-7177, ext. 375

• **Friday, June 4, to Sunday, June 6:** "We Are The Body of Christ" retreat at Camp Casowasco, Owasco Lake. Arrive on Friday at 7 p.m., depart on Sunday just before noon. \$80 per person covers meals and lodging. Call the Odyssey hotline, and leave your name, mailing address and phone number and somebody will get back to you.

• **Saturday, June 12:** Hike planned; details available by calling Odyssey.

• **Thursday, June 17:** Discussion on "The Spirituality of Star Wars" with Rochester Democrat and Chronicle movie reviewer Jack Garner at 7 p.m. in Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St., Rochester. Info: 716/271-7240.

• **Thursday, June 24:** Dinner at the Elmwood Inn, 1256 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester, at 7 p.m.

• **Saturday, June 26:** Third Annual Odyssey Picnic and Mass at Hookins Point Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park, Mendon. 2 p.m. Volleyball, hiking, softball, board games, music, food and a late afternoon Mass, as well as dinner.

Price is \$5, which covers meat, rolls and cabin rental. Also bring a beverage, salad, snack or dessert to pass. Registration required by June 21 by contacting Odyssey hotline.

• **Friday, July 16:** Rochester Red Wings baseball game at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$6.50.

• **Thursday, July 22:** Dinner at the Elmwood Inn, Rochester, 7 p.m.

• **Saturday, Aug. 7:** Young Adult Conference for ages 18 to 22 at the State University of New York College at Genesee from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The conference will feature Doug Brummel, a comedian and storyteller, and include dinner and dialogue with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, plus many interactive workshops. Call Sylvia Mancuso at 716/328-6210, ext. 295 or 800-388-7177, ext. 295.

• **Friday, Aug. 20:** Rochester Red Wings baseball game at 7:15 p.m. Tickets are \$6.50.

• **Thursday, Aug. 26:** Dinner at the Elmwood Inn, Rochester, 7 p.m.