

DIOCESAN NEWS

Refugee-graduates a summer wiser



Sister Marion Hocht, SSJ, commencement speaker, sings and dances to the Hokey Pokey with Valdete Sahiti, 13, left, and Luljete Tusha, 10, during a commencement party.



Liberian refugee Tekpo Kapor, 8, listens attentively during commencement exercises.



Valdete Sahiti, 13, left, and Besarta Ilazi, 10, sing and cheer during the graduation ceremony.



Sister Marion Hocht adjusts the graduation cap of Kosovar refugee Kustrim Ilazi, 4, after it had blown off in a breeze.

PHOTOS
BY
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From left, Kosovar refugees Valdete Sahiti, 13, Besarta Ilazi, 10, and Arjeta Sahiti, 15, jump rope at the summer camp.

The Sisters of St. Joseph offered a summer camp July 6-29 for 25 refugee children from Kosovo, Liberia and Haiti, on the motherhouse grounds in Pittsford. The children met three days a week for arts and crafts, language studies, sports and music, primarily to learn the English language. "Graduation" was held July 28. Volunteers from the Sisters of St. Joseph and St. Thomas More Church, Brighton, helped run the camp, which was organized by Sister Kathleen Clary, SSJ, a teacher at Rochester's Corpus Christi elementary school. "My heart was so touched by the situation in Kosovo, I knew I needed to do something," Sister Clary said. "I have deep love for all children and wanted to do something to help them get ready for school in September."