



Bishop Matthew H. Clark (right), with Father John DeSocio, blesses a time capsule that holds mementos and letters offered by teens in the diocese. The blessing occurred near the end of Mass at the Diocesan Youth Convention on Aug. 5.

## Convention puts focus on future with time capsule

### Timeless thoughts

Here are some excerpts from letters that Diocesan Youth Convention participants wrote for teens of the future. The letters were put in a time capsule and will be buried later this summer at the diocesan Pastoral Center in Rochester. The capsule is slated to be opened in the year 2025.

*There's only one priest at my church and it would be easier if we had more.*

*At this present time, guns are a big problem.*

*There will be wild electric cars (by 2025). Are mountain bikes still popular?*

*You should look up what happened with the leaders of Corpus Christi Church.*

*Time has changed, but the same God that created us is still there.*

*Love is the key for life, and what God is all about.*

*So many youth are slipping away from God because of the lack of recognition given to them. I hope by the time you read this letter, (desired) changes would now be reality.*

*Take this from a kid who knows: Don't do drugs.*

Twenty-five years from now, how will our present-day church and society be remembered?

Young Catholics in the year 2025 will get some help with their history, thanks to a project that took place at the Diocesan Youth Convention.

"Celebrate: Yesterday, Today and Forever" served as the theme for the seventh annual convention, held Aug. 4-6 at SUNY College at Geneseo. One of the weekend's pivotal moments occurred at the Aug. 5 Mass, when a large basket of letters

tual, musical and recreational activities. According to Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry, these events were enjoyed by approximately 500 youths and 150 adult chaperons from all parts of the diocese.

Among the highlights were a wide range of Saturday workshops on such subjects as social justice, leadership, faith-sharing, sexuality and stress relief. Keynote speakers for the weekend were Jesse Manibusen, a storyteller and musician who had

been master of ceremonies at the National Catholic Youth Conference in St. Louis last November; and Anna Scally, a columnist and inspirational speaker who had appeared at the NCYC as well. Scally also served as disc jockey for the diocesan convention's Saturday-night dance.

Another NCYC connection emerged during the weekend in Geneseo. A

collection taken up during the Saturday Mass raised more than \$2,000 for Save the Children, a Toronto-based organization that seeks to defend the rights of poor children around the world. Save the Children founder Craig Kielburger, a teenager himself, spoke at the NCYC and also appeared in February at Rochester's St. John Fisher College.

As part of the diocesan convention's closing ceremony on Aug. 6, new members of the Diocesan Youth Committee were commissioned for two-year terms. Outgoing members were also recognized at that time.

One of the departing NYC representatives made quite an effort to be on hand for the weekend: Tina Gammariello, 18, had moved with her family to Las Vegas in April. But Tina said she wasn't going to let the 2,300-mile gap stop her from attending an event that she cherishes greatly, so she flew back to Rochester in time to be at the convention.

"I've loved the convention every year; it's so much fun. I wanted to see all my friends," Tina said. "They're all telling me to come back for a retreat next year. I'm going to try to."

**COMING NEXT WEEK:  
Love those youth ministers!**



Tracy Wilcox, 18, (left) of St. John's Spencerport, hugs Lisa Muscato, 18, of St. Helen's in Gates on Aug. 4 during opening night of the convention.

was brought forth and placed in a time capsule at the foot of the Wadsworth Auditorium stage. The liturgy's celebrant, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, then blessed the capsule, which will be buried in late August at the diocesan Pastoral Center. It is not to be opened for 25 years.

Participants had written their capsule letters the previous evening, offering advice and encouragement to the next generation. Some of the letters' popular themes included hate and violence in today's world; the dangers of alcohol and drugs; and the importance of God, love and family.

Cuyler O'Brien said that in his letter, he expressed hope for some of the world's major issues to be resolved.

"I told the kids that since there's problems (now) and it's probably going to get worse, somebody's got to do something about it — global warming, hunger in Third World countries," said Cuyler, 14, from St. John of Rochester Parish in Perinton.

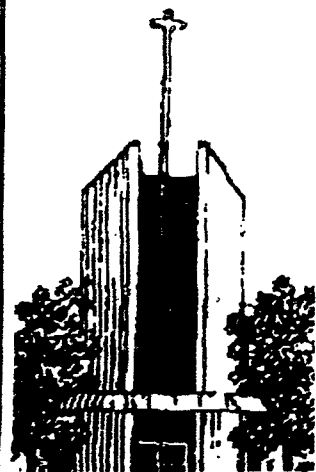
Cuyler's sister Kelly, 16, said she recapped the 20th century in her letter, noting that "there were many wars but also many triumphs" such as new medicine and technology. She added that in 2025, "I hope that it's a better world because by that time, I'll have kids."

In addition to the time capsule, the convention featured an array of spir-

Story by  
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## YOUTH MINISTER WANTED



Saint Amelia Parish, Tonawanda, is seeking a full time youth minister, to begin September 2000. The youth minister works with high school youth, directing the Lifeteen program, offering overnight retreats, providing spiritual direction and counseling and overseeing a range of social and athletic activities. A background in Catholic theology and a talent for relating to young people are essential. Salary commensurate with education and experience.

Send resume to: Search Committee, Saint Amelia Rectory, 210 Saint Amelia Drive, Tonawanda, NY 14150 before August 15.