

on the **MOVE**

Starting off the NCYC

The National Catholic Youth Conference only comes along every two years. So why wait until getting to Indianapolis for all the fun to begin?

A few days prior to the conference — it runs Dec. 6-9 — the youth groups from St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport and St. Jude in Gates joined up for an overnight retreat. That event, held Nov. 30-Dec. 1 at St. John's, enabled youth and adults to make practical preparations for their trip — and also let loose some of the energy that has mounted as the national conference draws closer.

The retreat included Scripture readings and prayer, individual witnesses, affirmation activities and skits. One of the more memorable exercises came early Saturday afternoon, when participants enthusiastically decorated their brightly colored "pink flamingo" hats to be worn at the convention. Many of the hats were also adorned in green to reflect the group's motto of Fully Rely on God (FROG).

Participants capped off the activities by attending the Saturday 5 p.m. Mass at St. John's, and returning to the parish center for a pasta-and-meatballs supper they had prepared that afternoon.

According to Barb Legere, St. John's youth minister, 44 teens and adults from

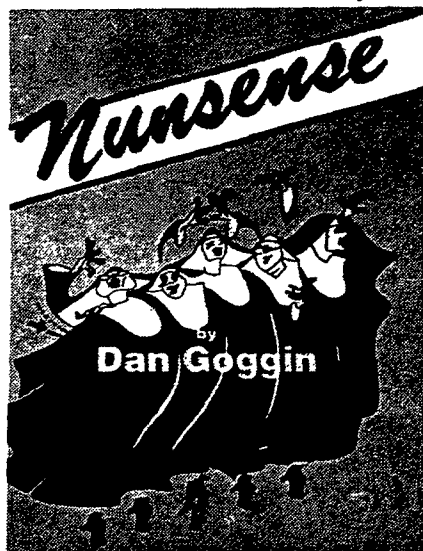


Karen Young (front), Marie Ward (center) and Dave McLean play their own version of "Twister" at a pre-NCYC retreat at St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport Nov. 30.



(Left) Chris Morgan's eyes are covered by Ruth Uschold, and hers by Carol Tarkulich; (at right) Chris Moody receives the same treatment from Steve Hull during a "get acquainted" Twister game. All are parishioners of St. John's, except Chris Moody, who is a parishioner at St. Jude's.

*The Little Sisters of Hoboken
are Back for the Holidays!*



A delightfully hilarious musical about the Little Sisters of Hoboken who have staged a talent show in order to raise enough money to bury 4 sisters (if only the Reverend Mother hadn't bought a VCR for the convent, they could have buried them with the other 48 sisters who died from tainted vichyssoise soup prepared by Sister Julia - Child of God...). Don't Miss It!!!



Downstairs Cabaret
Theatre

325-4370

St. John's and an additional seven from St. Jude's attended the retreat.

"I think it was really good to have this retreat," said Tricia Johnson, 16, of St. John's. "Within the youth group it really brings us closer together." She noted that several people who are normally quiet contributed regularly to the retreat's small-group sessions.

The event also helped bring some reassurance to Tricia, who has been forced to get around in crutches after foot surgery last month for an injury suffered during cross-country season. "Being a pretty active person, I was afraid that if I did go (to NCYC), I wouldn't be able to do anything," Tricia said.

But during the retreat, she noted, people were anxious to help her get up and down stairs, carry items and eat meals. She even took part in a Twister-like game because "people were helping me stand up, so I got to do that too," she said. Now she's psyched for Indianapolis, she said, because of "the fact I've been able to participate so much."

Legere said the retreat's overall excitement level was high because the teens were finally able to see the fruits of their labor, which included many months of preparation through fundraising activities. Planning for NCYC is so extensive, Legere said, that St. John's is already

laying groundwork for the next national conference, to be held in Houston in 2004.

One retreatant, Eric Conway of St. John's, said it wasn't until very recently that he allowed himself to get caught up in NCYC hoopla.

"The best way I handled it was, I didn't think about it. Because if I did, I'd get too excited and it wouldn't meet my expectations," explained Eric, 16. He called the retreat at St. John's a pleasant reality check "that I'm (finally) going," he said.

Nearly 25,000 people are expected to attend the four-day National Catholic Youth Conference, which will be filled with seminars, workshops, prayer and social outings. The closing Mass will feature a homily by Rochester Bishop Matthew H. Clark. There will be nearly 1,000 teens and chaperons from the Rochester Diocese alone attending the NCYC. No other diocese in the country, except for Indianapolis, is sending as many participants.

Chris May, 14, of St. Jude's, said he's "looking to meeting other kids around my age, believing in the same faith I do." Meanwhile, Jessica Harwood of St. John's, 15, said she's approaching her NCYC experience as a chance for renewal.

"I just really need to get away, to travel a bit," Jessica said. "It's like a retreat — only much bigger."

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