

Turning 'sweet 15'



Braulia Reyes of Rochester, smiles as her aunt, Mariana Benitez, wipes off excess lipstick prior to Braulia's quinceañera, or 15th birthday celebration, Aug. 31. "You are only 15! You can only wear a little bit!" Benitez exclaimed. The celebration marks a young woman's passage into adulthood, and family members were on hand to help prepare her for a special service at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church followed by a party.



Erika DeJesus, one of Braulia's damas, or maids of honor, stands in the foyer of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Rochester before the quinceañera.



Father Dennis Shaw, pastor of Rochester's Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, blesses Braulia during the service celebrating her quinceañera.



Braulia leaves her quinceañera service with her escort, Darwin Aponte.