

The Summer Camps in 2005 at Lac-Etchemin

The Girls' Camps



1st group - Adolescents



2nd group - Young ladies

The summer camps for young girls are directed by our Daughters of Mary Sisters, with Sister Gabrielle Carbonneau being its guiding light. These camps have been held at Lac-Etchemin for seven years, thanks to the volunteer help of lay people. Lasting a week, they bring together young girls in two groups – 12-13 years of age and 14-18 years of age. As was the case in past years, Father Hervé Lemay, our contemporary "Don Bosco" was responsible for the spiritual direction of the camps.

The purpose of these week-long stays is to foster, in the peace of nature and a spiritual environment, fraternal exchanges between young people dispersed throughout the

province of Quebec and even beyond it. Again this year, through the practical, instructive and entertaining formation presented, the experience proved to be captivating and enriching.

In the last two years, the young girls were accommodated for the night in a few homes, spending the day participating in the activities organized at Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gingras' who so very graciously and generously put their large house, so very welcoming, at the disposal of the girls. During each camp, the lower level was transformed into a chapel, the dining room into a refectory for close to thirty people and a few rooms into workshop areas.

After Mass in the morning, a variety of activities occupied the days: catechetics, a choir group, an introduction to cooking, workshops in ornithology (the study of birds) or sewing, plays, or talks on different topics of interest to young people.

Speakers enriched the knowledge of these young girls by providing an initiation in different areas, depending on circumstances. There were also leisure activities such as games, crafts, day excursions along nature trails and sometimes a "show night" where the film presented this year entitled "Les choristes" ["the choristers"] was a wonderful lesson on educational psychology.

Every evening, this little "family" gathered together to pray the rosary, either about a bonfire or during a candlelight procession if the weather cooperated, giving each one an opportunity for a greater intimacy with God. Of course, during the day, there were also other spiritual breaks, such as, occasionally, short periods of adoration at Spiri-Maria. Mixing recreation with apostolate, the camps closed with an evening program put together by the young people and presented to a public that had met for the occasion at the lower level of Virgo-Fidelis. That is where the young girls, under the guidance of adults, presented the "fruit" of their camps.

A PLAY

The theme of the camps being *The Eucharist, Bread of Life*, the younger group presented a play recounting the life of Saint Tarcisus, an apostle of the Eucharist. Songs and skits completed the program.

A PARADE OF ELEGANCE

At the end of the second camp, the nineteen young girls, full of energy, presented a first at the recreational evening of August 12: a parade of elegance. Fifteen outfits for evening or dress wear, home-sewn or store-bought, were presented by these young ladies. The emphasis was on modesty, simplicity and dignity in the wearing of a dress or a skirt with a blouse or sweater. A well-dressed young lady always commands respect.

A CONCERT

The activities of the "choir group" gave these young ladies a chance to present a few well-chosen selections: songs from *La Bonne Chanson* (folklore) by Father Gadbois; the *Two Hearts* by Father Bruno Ruel; *The Night* by Rameau and Strauss' *Blue Danube*.

We must mention the generous, volunteer and "musical" participation of some young adults: Danielle and Lucie Beauchemin, as well as Andrée-Anne Caron who contributed to the success of the camps. We cannot forget, either, the ladies who worked in the kitchen and all the men and women who facilitated the organization of the camps.

As is the case each year, it was with joy but not without emotion that the young people returned home, promising to meet each other at Spiri-Maria over the course of the year, while waiting to see each other again at the next camp.

Sister Chantal Buuse, O.F.F.M.

The Boys' Camps



1st group - Adolescents



2nd group - Young lads

During the summer of 2005, the Sons of Mary at Marienthal were home, for the eighth consecutive year, to the camps for young boys organized within the context of the activities of the Work, under the supervision of Fathers Hervé Lemay and Serge Lépine. These camps set up according to two age groups (12-14 years and 15-17 years) took place between July 24-30 and August 7-14 respectively. Here is a brief report of these two events.

Twenty-two adolescents between the ages of 12 and 14 participated in the first camp, the theme of which was *The Year of the Eucharist, en route to the Kingdom*. The responsibility for the activities was given to Yvan Laprise who was assisted by Alain Têtu and a team of young people older than the campers.

One of the characteristics of our camps is to provide a diversified experience of work, a valuable school of life. The young boys received an introduction to the world of electronics with Father Hervé Lemay, learned the basics of leather work with Brother Issa-Paul Carbonneau, and how to build kites with Brother Renaud Vallerand. They were also assigned a few tasks requiring cleaning and repair work.

Alongside these labor-filled activities, they also spent their energy in sporting and recreational activities such as soccer and other competitive games, the climbing of Mount Orignal, camp fires and skits. Throughout all these activities a special emphasis was placed on developing a spirit of chivalry with its virtues of loyalty and courage, wisdom and justice, courtesy, compassion and humility.

During the second camp, a smaller group of ten young lads followed the same theme as the WYD in Cologne: "We have come to adore Him". This time, Brother David Lorange was responsible for the organization of the camp with the wonderful cooperation of a team of adult counsellors: Jean Hamel, Michel Beauchemin, Richard Latulippe, Pierre Lorange, Raymond Michaud, Mathieu Mallette and Father Michel Dufour. Together they participated in different jobs: the picking up of branches and logs, the spreading and packing of crushed rock along the footpaths behind the Eucharistic and Marian Center Spiri-Maria, straightening the framework of an old sugar shack, the repairing of bicycles to be given, through an organism, to people in a third-world country.

On the cultural level, the young people had the chance to listen to a professional physicist, Marc Roy, who is working for a company that collaborated in a project to send robots to the planet Mars.

An excursion through the woods was also on the agenda, under the leadership of Alain Têtu, a career soldier, who generously accepted to participate in this expedition. The celebration of Mass at the top of Mount Orignal crowned this day of walking, a day when the values of asceticism and perseverance were of particular importance.

Among the generous lay volunteers who saw to the proper functioning of the camps, there was the team, essentially feminine, of those who prepared the meals during these intense activity-filled days. Among the hard-working cooks, many were the wives of the counsellors mentioned above.

During these two camps marked by the presence of religious, it goes without saying that prayer and the sacraments (including daily Mass and the rosary) served to irrigate these days like blood running through the body's veins. We should mention the night of Eucharistic adoration during which each young person had to keep watch before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in an outdoor chapel under the starlit sky. There was something new this year: the campers in the second camp became pilgrims for a day as they participated in part of one of the pilgrimages "Following along the footsteps of 'Life of Love'" that took place at different intervals during the summer.

With sentiments of gratitude to Providence that looks after all things, we wish to offer our congratulations to each and every one of the participants, teenagers and adults, who made of these camps, once again this year, a wonderful success both on the human and spiritual levels.

Brother David Lorange, O.F.F.M.