 Service was the focus of the day as nine youth from Holyoke's St. Patrick's Catholic Church participated in a mission outreach project at Children's Hospital in Denver Sunday, May 31.

 "Batter Up—Strike Up Some Fun with Us!" was the theme for the day, and the youth set up activities in the main lobby of the hospital for patients as well as visitors.

 Activity centers included decorating baseball hats with fabric paints, playing bingo for "ball prizes," making foam pennants of their favorite teams or their own pennant, reading "sports"' books to the children, playing games with a 24" inflatable baseball and inflatable bat and a baseball bean bag toss game.

 Flyers had been placed around the hospital during the past week to invite patients to the festivities sponsored by the group. Families brought their children to participate in the activities, and visitors were also invited to make items to take to patients' rooms. Families and friends were appreciative they could make something to take to those who were too sick to leave their rooms.

 The youth have been planning the mission trip for over a year and found serving those in need brought about many emotions, from serving those in need in a simple profound way to the feeling of helplessness, and from the excitement of seeing the joy they brought patients and families to the sadness that was experienced as some families shared the story of their child with them.

 In addition to the service project at the hospital, the group also attended Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Denver. It was a highlight as several of the youth got to experience the Cathedral for the first time. The group also briefly met with the Archbishop of Denver, Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M., Cap.

 Activities of the mission trip centered around the group's theme for the year: the three "S's" which are Spiritual, Service and Social.

 Funds for the trip were recently raised by serving food for the Junior Rodeo Association activities at the Phillips County Fairgrounds in the Methodist Church Food Stand.

 Service projects for the youth group take place in May because it is their target month to accomplish the goal of service outside of the local church and community. Past projects included trips to the Denver Rescue Mission, the Samaritan House, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church Soup Kitchen and the Delores Project, all of which involved the homeless.

 Youth participants in this year's trip were Briar Bergner, Megan Colglazier, Amanda Ferguson, Amy Krogmeier, Ryan Krogmeier, Zuri Lopez, Eva Penzing, Tanner Smith and Liz Tomky. Adult sponsors were Gloria Bergner, Harvey and Nancy Colglazier, Connie Ferguson and Steph Krogmeier.