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havo Greek food. They had hamburgers.'

Argentine six-pack is finding their visit to be an educational and cultural epiphany.
Three of them visited Chicago where they saw a performance of "Riverdance." They've toured the Detroit Institute of Arts, African-American Museum and WDIV-TV Channel 4 studios, courtesy of Mercy High parents Carol and Joe Garagiola.

Sister In.
They also took in a Wayne County
Circuit Court proceeding followed by
a trip to Greektown.
"They didn't have Greek food," Sister Regina reported. "They had ham-High School

burgers."
They'll visit Wayne State University and speak – in English – to fourth- and fifth-graders at an Oak Park elementary school about Argentinian life. Such exchanges enhance student language skills and cultural awareness on both sides of the equator, Sister

tural awareness on both sides of the equator, Sister Regins said.

The exchange program is in its second year.

Argentinian students, who are on their summer break, are also taking part in classes not offered at St. Ethnea's, a K-12 school 16 miles outside Buenos Aires. Some of those include: relationships, life skills, swimming, speech and creative food.

Back home, St. Ethnea students do mission work in the barries, the poerest sections of Argentina.

"There is a lot of good our kids do, but it doesn't involve the depths of poverty they have in Argentina," Sister Regins said.

Mercy students are learning something else about their visitors: They exude a great deal of warnth. Where a handshake would suffice here, Argentines engulf people with a hug.



The group: Visitors from Argentina include Candelaria Osorio, Luz Walker, Maria Péarson, Sofia DeAmbrosi, Cecilia Amadeo, Julia Novoa and Sisters Sara Fliess, RSM, and Susana Diaz, RSM.

With Catholicism virtually a national religion in Argentina, they're quite united in their faith, Sister Regina noted.

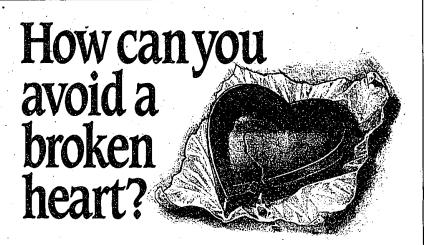
The Mercy High principal will find out firsthand. She'll join students for two of the four weeks on the return leg in July.

Meanwhile, she's brushing up on her Spanish. Argentinian students have made sheets with the phrases written next to cutout pictures of common items.

They also pepper the principal with Spanish, but Sister Regina said they speak too fast to understand.

"They roll their Rs and pucker up ... It's a real challenge to learn," she said.





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