

YOUTH

Mercy Senior Wins Most Valuable Student

By PATRICIE MITCHELL

Theresa Roy, a senior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, has been awarded the Most Valuable Student Award given by the Elks National Foundation.

Terry, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Roy of Saint James Parish, will receive a \$600 scholarship to the college of her choice.

On May 22, Terry received the award at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. She was chosen on the basis of scholarship and involvement in extra-curricular and civic activities.

Terry, who plans to study French at Nazareth College, entered the contest on her own, gathering the necessary information five days before the deadline: an autobiography, letters of recommendation from the school, and a statement from her parents.

Terry has won a Regents'



MISS ROY

State Scholarship and also a Nazareth College scholarship. She is associate editor of the yearbook and a member of the Glee Club, French Club and dramatics club.

Why Teens Don't Dig Same Songs Dad Did

New York — (CP) — Unlike popular songs of the past — particularly in the Forties and Fifties — today's popular music as a whole offers the listener a selection of values, of ways of living, behaving and reacting," according to a young Jesuit priest.

Father Louis Savary, SJ, in a book titled Popular Song and Youth Today, comments:

"Unlike the popular songs of yesterday, today's music is not merely selling sentimental, sweet romance and easy escape. It has accepted a larger task.

"It is expected to comment on personal values, to confront problems in human relations, to speak out on human injustice, to explore loneliness, to struggle with desperation and alienation, to unite those who wish to reform the institutions of society."

Father Savary notes that, "twenty or thirty years ago, everything was simple and clear, as far as popular song was concerned. Man was made for woman, and woman for man. In the earlier decades, sentimental exaggeration was common. Every guy's girl was a goddess and every girl's guy was a hero. Love was romantic and mesmerizing; everyone

could forget his troubles and get happy. As long as boy and girl were together, nothing could go wrong."

Today's songs, however, "usually deal very differently with the man-woman relationship," Father Savary observed in the book, published by Associated Press.

"One theme is that a satisfying married relationship is made up of simple experiences. Honest and romantic, Little Green Apples maintains that love, if it is real, has no need to exaggerate. Didn't We, on the other hand, cautions that love is not a simple matter of misty-eyed romance, but an experience that sometimes fails and hurts."

The Jesuit priest, who prior to ordination played trumpet in a jazz band, claims that "whether or not young people grasp the significance of their music, the lyrics of popular music today do search for meaning.

"More than ever before, songs deal with concrete personal values. In them there is little of the romantic and sentimental. Most popular music of the young today is specified, hard-nosed and realistic — and very serious about human and social problems. Too serious, maybe.

"Simon and Garfunkel songs tell of the troubled waters, the sounds of silence, and the communications barriers among people. John Sebastian, formerly of the Lovin' Spoonful, fills his music with the drumming din of a pneumatic hammer to suggest a heavy, humid city,

with love in sweat and shadow. Bob Dylan sings of passports, and riot squads, of burning cigarettes and sniffing glue, of neighborhood threats and an old-fashioned big brass bed.

"In many ways, the popular records sold today are a mirror of the contemporary young Americans who buy them. The typical song speaks of a world that wants to be open to life; yet it finds that world complex and confusing, filled with contradictions."

He added that "generally speaking, popular songwriters today recognize that they have a responsibility. They may not always act on it. They may sometimes be arrogant and unthinking, but often enough the responsibility is accepted."

The Music Bag

The Best of Superstar

By THE MISSION SINGERS

Jesus Christ — Superstar becomes more beautiful with every day that passes, and the song, I Don't Know How to Love Him, is one of the most beautiful in the opera.

Mary Magdalene is the one who sings this simple love song on the Superstar album, and for many people the fact that she is the one who sings it is quite a shocker.

After all, she was a prostitute, who has "had so many men before." To say that Christ seems like "just one more" is a pretty physical thing to say. When critics of Superstar list their objections, this aspect of this song is usually one of their arguments.

But by now most people are beyond the stage of arguing whether or not this song is irreverent. Christ was a physical person. More than that, he came to show that the physical — the body, the world — is not dirty. It's no shame, no irreverence, for a song like this to be sung. It simply expresses one part of the great longing that a woman like Magdalene might have felt when she was with a person as great as Jesus. As she said: "I don't see why he moves me."

That's the reason a song like this fits so well into this story of Jesus and some of his friends. It helps us to understand these people better. They become more real.

But the song is more than just an affirmation of the physical. Its main importance is the way it describes a person reacting to the love that Jesus has offered him.

As an example of what we mean, we can cite the recent article in Life magazine about the Jesus-freaks in Rye, N.Y. It describes many of the characteristics of a young person hooked on Christ: the ready smile, the joy and peace that seem so constant and obvious, the exuberant excitement when talking about Jesus.

But there was one more characteristic that was as frightening as the others were encouraging. This last trait was that the kids seem so totally sure

I Don't Know How to Love Him

I don't know how to love him, what to do, how to move him, I've been changed, yes really changed. In these past few days when I've seen myself, I seem like someone else.

I don't know how to take this, I don't see why he moves me. He's a man, he's just a man, and I've had so many men before In very many ways; he's just one more.

Should I bring him down, should I scream and shout? Should I speak of love, let my feelings out? I never thought I'd come to this — what's it all about?

Don't you thing it's rather funny I should be in this position? I'm the one who's always been so calm, so cool, no lover's fool, Running every show! he scares me so.

I never thought I'd come to this — what's it all about? Yet if he said he loved me, I'd be lost, I'd be frightened, I couldn't cope, just couldn't cope. I'd turn my head, I'd back away, I wouldn't want to know. He scares me so, I want him so, I love him so.

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of themselves. They seem to have an overly simple view about life and the world, almost as if they were saying: "I'm saved, so the whole world is all right."

Here's one thing they actually did say: "Poor people are poor because they don't know how to pray." This kind of attitude is truly frightening.

Don't get the wrong idea about what we're saying. We believe that when a person gets to know Christ, a great peace and a great certainty fills him. A real Christian can't be a pessimist because he knows that God's will will "out," it will be accomplished.

But apparently, those kids in Rye aren't willing to accept "only" that peace and certainty. They go even further (perhaps it's better to say they turn back) from that peace by apparently becoming cocksure instead of certain.

We think a song like I Don't Know How to Love Him is a more natural, more human, more consistent way of reacting to the fact that Christ does love us.

Our reason is that love — any love — is a peace-filling action, but it does take a person beyond himself. Real love makes a person see things he has never seen before, and such sights can be frightening.

As Mary Magdalene says in the song, "In these past few days when I've seen myself, I seem like someone else." Also, in the same breath she says: "He scares me so, I want him so, I love him so."

This song describes the reaction of many people when they finally accept how much Jesus loves them. It's not enough to say, "Jesus is my personal savior. I have all the answers I need." It's not enough to say, "The Bible is my personal book of Salvation; I look there to have all my problems solved."

The song is an admission that we still have to grow.

(Catholic Press Features)

ROSARY SOCIETY

Our Lady of Mercy Church Rosary Society will hold its annual banquet and installation of officers at the Lakeshore Country Club Monday evening, June 7. For further information call Rita Lincoln, (716) 865-6317.

THURSDAY DEADLINE

Remember that the news and photo deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon for the following week's newspaper.

Wednesday, June 2, 1971

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