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By RAY MONTANARO
Aquinas



From Abraham Lincoln and his Emancipation Proclamation to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his following the black man has gradually gained his natural rights.

While racial equality isn't to the point where black and white differences are totally ignored I feel it is safe for our more liberal politicians to dry their eyes, and for the more conservative ones to withdraw their claws. Frank Robinson became baseball's first black manager and Hank Aaron broke the Babe's record, but I don't see the Ku Klux Klan burning, Bowie Kuhn's office down.

More realistically, however, let's look at the black-white relationship on a teenage level. "Some of my best friends are black" is the common response. It is true most white teens have close black friends, and from what I see, the situation is the same in reverse. Although the friendships are hardly superficial, we can't kid ourselves; the situation is less than rosy.

How often do we find ourselves

using racial slurs, but if the person had been the same color as the person who made the statement the racial "slur" would have been omitted. I feel the situation is this; we naturally seek differences in a person, particularly when he is in the act of doing something not generally accepted, and use these differences to accentuate our statement condemning the act. Racial differences are often the most obvious, and therefore, the most used.

But why are racial differences the most obvious? Man learned along ago to live with physical differences among his own kind. Why then the fuss over black and white? I think that it has been unnecessarily crammed down our throats by politicians who push busing, something that often hits close to home, and black freedom fighters screaming for equal rights.

Leave us alone! We (teens) know that black people have the same qualities as other human beings. It will take time, but I think teenagers, white and black can get along fine.



Photos by Bruce Genut

Students at St. Anne's School, Rochester, study and discuss information on the various Catholic high schools. All look forward to being freshmen next year.

Why They've Chosen Catholic High Schools

By JOAN M. SMITH

Why a Catholic secondary education?

This was the question asked a number of parochial school eighth graders who will be entering Catholic high schools in September 1975. All were very definite in their reasons why they chose to continue their education in a Catholic high school, and also were very aware of what they could expect from these schools.

Students from St. John the Evangelist in Greece revealed they had always thought of a Catholic high school education.

Sue Danehy who will enter Nazareth Academy in the fall said, "I'd always planned on it because Catholic schools have more to offer," and she listed the discipline concept as another reason.

John Cocilova who had also planned on continuing his Catholic education considered discipline important as he pointed out, "You really have to study, and that's what I need." He'll be following in his brother's footsteps when he enters Aquinas Institute this September.

Another future Aquinas student, Steve Tornarola, appreciates the individual student-teacher relationship offered by the Catholic high schools.

Nick DiVelli chose a Catholic secondary education "to further my religion." He will attend Cardinal Mooney along with Kathy Lennox who indicated the eight years spent in a Catholic grammar school automatically motivates you to attend a Catholic high school.

Over at St. James School, Irondequoit, future Mercian Margaret Bonn agreed with this theory. She said her decision to go to a Catholic high had been based on being in a Catholic elementary school:

Fellow classmate Michelle Nicosia, however, disagreed. She argued, "Even if I had been in a public primary system I still would have decided to go to a Catholic high school." Her reasons; better opportunities in achieving her scholastic goals. Come September, Michelle will enter Our Lady of Mercy.

The young people at St. James generally agreed with this reason. Matt Cleary is looking forward to a "mature education" while fellow classmate Martin Mahoney remarked, "You receive a better outlook on life, learn responsibilities, and get to know yourself better." Both boys are

headed for McQuaid Jesuit High School this fall.

There were other factors influencing. According to Visnja Rodic, St. Anne's school, Rochester, she was mostly influenced by Catholic high students themselves who informed her of the variety of educational programs, and extra-curricular activities. Visnja will continue her studies at St. Agnes.

And of course there's the parental motivation. Anne Wegman, who will be a freshman at Mercy, credited her parents with helping her make her choice.

Though parents do seem to be a primary force in this regard, both Ronald Broccolo of St. James, and Joyce Palmer, St. Anne's, emphasized that although their parents were an influence, the final decision was left up to them. Ron and Joyce will be freshmen at Bishop Kearney and St. Agnes, respectively.

This freedom of choice was the general attitude of the parents interviewed. Mrs. Joanne Jensen, St. John the Evangelist, whose son Ken will be entering Cardinal Mooney this fall emphasized, "I didn't direct him. It was his decision all the way."

St. James' parish mothers also left the final choice up to their children. Of course, Mrs. Rose Miriam Miller, and Mrs. Olive McDonald who have sons and daughters in Bishop Kearney and Mercy are happy with the decision. Mrs. Miller likes the definite guidelines and values the Catholic high schools set, and Mrs. McDonald rates the "teacher dedication" as a plus.

No matter what the reason for their choice — discipline, religious growth, academic opportunity, having relatives and friends in the Catholic high schools, or parent influence — all the young adults are excitedly anticipating new educational experiences in their respective Catholic high schools come September.



Mercy May Day

photo by Bruce Genut

Ascension Thursday was a bright spring day for Our Lady of Mercy High School's May Day. Here May Queen Mary Roth, attended by her maids of honor, places a floral crown on the Statue of the Blessed Virgin. Ceremonies followed morning Mass.



Mooney Carnival

Cardinal Mooney High School has scheduled its annual carnival from May 15 through 18 on the school grounds on Maiden Lane. All proceeds will be given to the school in the name of Francis C. Campe who was an original member of the carnival committee which began 12 years ago. This year's committee: front row, Brother John Larrere, John Sheils, Vic DeSimon, Brother Thomas Gallagher; second row, Dick Stillman, Jack Hetzler, Bob Chambers, Sam Delvecchio, Kenneth Robinson. George Bunting is chairman. Supper will be served from 5 to 7 p.m.



Margaret Bonn, Maggie Manzanilla, Michele Nicosia, Ron Broccolo, Matt Cleary, and Martin Mahoney of St. James parish discuss their choices in Catholic high schools.