

# Map Around Map Around

## Time Out For Faith

By Sister Mary Maywalt DeSales

Writing an article on Penance, and wanting to show some awareness of teenagers' feelings about the sacrament, I went to individual teenagers at DeSales and talked it over with them. I wanted to be able to feel with them and to understand their fears. I also wanted to spend some time talking about their good experiences of receiving Penance face to face in a communal setting such as in Teen Seminar.

I heard, in talking with the students, basic fear about Penance which is common among teens. It seems to each one that he or she is horrible in sinfulness, that he or she is far worse than anyone else and that it is fearful to risk sharing the dark side of his or her being with another person. In a parish situation that fear becomes intensified — it becomes fear that parents who talk with the priest might hear of the sins of their children. While priests would be responsible about not divulging confessional material, still it is fearful for teenagers to confide so much to anyone and it helps for adults just to know the fear and be sensitive to it.

Related to this is the feeling of self-consciousness in receiving the sacrament in a parish church. It is easy to feel like a spectacle going and coming from the confessional. It is feared that the time spent in confession is being calculated by those who are still waiting in line — and once in the confessional it is difficult to know how to say in words what is on the teenager's mind.

Looming large in a teenager's fears is that of being yelled at for how long it has been since the last confession (and for many this could be a number of years simply because avoidance has been the pattern of dealing with their fears surrounding Penance). Or maybe the priest will scold and be heard by other people in the Church at that time.

It is also thought that the priest would have difficulty in understanding these sins, since many teens might assume he lives on a separate level of life; a teen might think that the distance between priest and a sinful teenager is too great to be bridged.

Teens who have experienced going to a priest in a face-to-face communal context have many positive things to say about their new appreciation of Penance. With a community — especially a community of teenagers — there is the feeling of belonging. All are openly acknowledging their sinfulness by celebrating in prayer and by individually going to priests who are available.

Once the fears are overcome and the risk is taken, the human encounter with the priest becomes a beautiful experience of relief and personal reassurance. The priest chats with each teenager, helps the teenager to find the words and even reveals his own humanness by the more conversational tone of this style of confession.

One student stated that

such a communal service gave him the time to think over his goals in life. In such a service there is the much needed silence, the prayer support of the group and the opportunity to squarely face oneself. Then after confessing, there is the desire to do the best from that time forward.

I hope this has shed some light on the difficulty teens might find with Penance. Helping them to grow comes with respecting their needs, their fears — and once they've had a special encounter in Penance, I find they are more than willing to say they've changed their minds — Penance does have a place in a teenager's life.

### Prayers For an Evening

An Alumnae Evening of Prayer is scheduled at Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse, Monday, March 10, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Father Vincent Panepinto, spiritual director of the seminarians at Becket Hall and chaplain at Mercy, will conduct the evening and follow the theme, "Prayer, the Center of Our Life." The evening will include a time for sharing thoughts and prayers; private reflection, and reading material will be available. The event will close with the celebration of the Eucharist. All Mercy alumnae and friends are invited to attend.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

### Cause for a Good Time

Monroe Community Hospital held a "rock and roll" benefit on Valentine's Day. Above St. Agnes students Jennifer Mackey, Carole Werner, Mary Hanss, Karen Ren, and hospital staff members Eleanore Everett and Sue Ellis cheered the hospital residents as they participated in the event. The goal was to raise \$500 for the hospital. Patients as well as the student volunteers, who included young gentlemen from McQuaid, had a great time exceeding that goal.

### Equal Time

What do you find confusing in our society?

<p><b>ANN DIFABIO</b> Senior Student Council</p> <p>"I think what is important is acting kind toward others especially during Lent because it's a time we should think of people and be aware of their problems. I don't think there's as much kindness toward people as there should be. People develop their Christian values through the family."</p> 	<p><b>NAZARETH</b> Senior cheerleading coach</p> <p>"I think charity because giving to people who don't have as much as we do is important. Lent is a time for people to practice the Christian values and to help the needy. In some ways there's enough charity in practice but I don't think there's enough of it."</p> 
<p><b>KATHY WARD</b> Senior Perosians</p> <p>"The most important Christian value is taking care of our fellow man because I don't think there's enough of it. People are too busy striving for themselves; for their materialistic plans and they don't take the time to help other people in a loving way. I think it would help the world and its problems if they did."</p> 	<p><b>JEANNE LALLY</b> Senior cheerleading</p> <p>"I don't know whether you would say it's a Christian value but I think awareness is important — that you can't ignore the problems around you but should do something about them, like poverty. People tend to strive for themselves and tend to forget those who haven't as much. Christian values are learned through the family and the parish."</p> 
<p><b>JUDY ZIMMER</b> Senior</p> <p>"Friendliness. I think people should put every effort into being kind to those who they otherwise don't bother with. People should take into consideration other people's feelings and not just their own. A sense of Christian values comes from family life and the actions of your friends. You can learn the good and bad from others and therefore, you can teach and also learn how to be nice."</p> 	<p><b>SHARI CRITTENDON</b> Senior Future Secretary Club</p> <p>"I think love thy neighbor is the most important. Today there isn't as much closeness between people. Everybody is in a hurry and they don't take the time to think about other people — they look out for number one."</p> 
<p><b>LINDA JOHNSON</b> Senior National Honor Society</p> <p>"The most important Christian value is to care about other people. I think to be concerned about other people and their problems is important and I think it is something we forget a lot about. I think we overlook people and their problems. I feel that maybe all the problems in the world are caused by people not caring about each other. Christian values come from the way you are brought up."</p> 	<p><b>MICHELE MAHLE</b> Senior Student Council</p> <p>"I think what is important is to be less critical of others and more accepting of other's values. I think a lot of reasons for conflict between people stem from the fact of the 'I'm better than you are' attitude and what I think is best because of the difference in class status and nationality. A sense of Christian values starts at home and is taught through religion. Some people claim to be perfect Christians and yet they're the first ones to point the finger at those who have problems."</p> 

### On The Go

<p><b>BISHOP KEARNEY</b> Thursday, March 6 — Sophomore PAX Day, A-103, 5th period. Friday, March 7 — Acceptance letters mailed to 8th graders. March 10-14 — Sisters' Vocation Week. Tuesday, March 11 — Freshman PAX Day, B-205, 2nd period. Wednesday, March 12 — Penitential Day with Mass in auditorium, 2:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>CARDINAL MOONEY</b> Friday, March 7 — Acceptance letter mailed to 8th graders; Entity Fashion-Talent Show. Monday, March 10 — Men's Guild Board meeting. March 10-14 — Pre-registration interviews.</p> <p><b>DeSALES</b> Monday, March 10 — Board of Trustees meeting.</p>	<p><b>MCQUAID</b> Thursday, March 6 — Report cards distributed. March 6-8 — The Pajama Game at St. Agnes; 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>NAZARETH</b> Thursday, March 6 — English awards assembly; recruitment, 9-11; PATON meeting, cafeteria, 7:45 p.m. p.m. Friday, March 7 — We are Family Day (WAF). March 10-16 — Music in our schools week. Monday, March 10 — Lenten Mass, auditorium, 8:30 a.m. recruitment, 9-11 p.m.; freshman class meeting, 2:40-3:15 p.m.; Father-daughter dinner-dance ticket sales; junior homeroom moderator meeting. Tuesday, March 11 — Freshman class Mass, 8:15-9 a.m.; recruitment 9-11 p.m.; Soph Tones 2:40-3:30, rm.</p>	<p>402; department heads meet in Home Ec building; PE Advisory Board, 7 p.m.; Student Council rep meeting 2:40-3:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 12 — Lenten Mass, 8:30 a.m.; faculty meeting, dismissal, 1:35 p.m.; freshmen chorus, 2:40-3:30; CPR course, rm. 402, 2-5 p.m.</p> <p><b>OUR LADY OF MERCY</b> Friday, March 7 — SGA movie, 8 p.m. Monday, March 10 — Third trimester begins; Alumnae evening of recollection.</p> <p><b>ST. AGNES</b> March 6-8 — McQuaid play, "Pajama Game", 8 p.m. Friday, March 7 — Opening assembly for candy drive; candy bowl. Wednesday, March 12 — Department head meeting.</p>
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