

Joan M. Smith, Editor

Mercy Students Explore Life's Realities

By Joan M. Smith

There was a happening at Our Lady of Mercy High School last Wednesday that cannot be covered in one article. There were so many ideas and information about what life is all about, that it would be an injustice to try to crowd them all in one report.

The "Youth Unlimited/Your Day for Discover" was the first for the school. Instead of regular classes each Mercian attended her choice of some 24 workshops conducted by professionals in different spheres of social endeavor. The event was the brain child of Sister Nancy Whately, guidance director. Seniors Debbie Zakrzewski and Sue Schraml coordinated the program while Janice DeLucia organized 50 students to serve as hostesses.

Why such a program? "We've had career days," stated Sister Nancy, "but I thought it was time to deal with the gut issues of life." And that is exactly what the program did. The seminars included realistic confrontations with such topics as Morality and Ethics given by Mrs. Ruth Turk, a CCD coordinator; Child Protection and Abuse, Ms. Lee Simmons from Child Protection Services; Death and Serious Illness, Father Donald Schwab; Loneliness, Mrs. Dohr, therapist at Genesee Hospital; Dealing with Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Platten; The Special Child, Mrs. Herz from the Al Sigl Center.

The day began with an address by Joseph Kelly, Office of Continuing Education, who spoke about potential, and ended with Bishop Matthew H. Clark as the keynote speaker.

RapAround not only sat in on a number of seminars —

Suicide and Depression, moderated by Dr. Joseph Corsica, school psychologist; Drugs and Alcohol, Detective Lt. Dan Right, Monroe County Sheriff's Dept.; Stress and Tensions, Dr. Wright, Dorothy Schlueter, RSM, to be covered in future articles — but talked with the students between sessions. Their enthusiasm for the program was best stated by the freshmen comments: "It's a good idea," "You learn a lot about things," "You become aware of what is happening."

Regarding individual sessions, junior Monica Worden passed on some information from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Staropoli's Marriage seminar, like the three major factors that contribute to a happy marriage — commitment, trust, and faith. She also pointed out that the fairy tale idea of "marry and live happily ever after" can prove to be a disillusionment.

Freshman Kirstan Profit

chose the Single Parent workshop given by Sister Kathy Kircher, Office of Family Life, because "A lot of people I know are divorced," and she agreed that the single parent status is a growing lifestyle.

Seniors Terrie Pfeifer and Lori Parsons were moderators for "What does it mean to Grow Old" given by Dr. Phyllis Ladrihan from Nazareth College. According to the girls, it dealt with how to treat grandparents and how to deal with the elderly in general. "Old people are not a disease," exclaimed the girls, "but human beings."

In the girls' opinion there is a trend changing from nursing home care to more home-care and self-care by the elderly themselves. They said it was because of the Senior Citizen organizations, special programs for the elderly like the "Meals on Wheels," and the youth councils who develop projects for the aged like "adopt-a-grandparent"

In room 204, Pat Fox, religious coordinator for St. Louis Parish, talked about Teenagers and the Catholic Church. He equated the St. Louis youth group's popular summer theater with "building a community," by everyone working, sharing and administering to one another. "Ministry," he said, "is sharing gifts."

Sharing one's gifts with the community was also a focal point of Bishop Clark's speech. He touched upon what he called the three C's — commonality, commitment and communication. In the latter he told his audience that he knew there were young adults who were happy in their parish community, but also knew there were those who didn't feel welcome or find an inviting hospitality in their particular parishes.

"Think seriously about your relationship to your parish community," he said and then asked them "to take the initiative, approach, your



Photo by Joan M. Smith

Bishop Clark took the time to chat with and sign autographs for those he met in the halls.

pastor and parish council and offer your gifts to the parish life." After doing so, he continued, if they still didn't find the hospitality or productivity they were to let him know. "Write to me," he said.

It might be expected by a speaker who follows a day of

speakers that his audience would be less than attentive — not so with Bishop Clark. As is usual, from the moment he walked into the auditorium he had a captive audience. And according to the comments he was just the right finishing touch to a productive and thought provoking day.

Fathers, Children Celebrate

On Sunday, Oct. 26, the Bishop Kearney High School Fathers' Club sponsored its first father/daughter/son Communion Breakfast. The morning began with a folk Mass celebrated by Father David Mura, director of Teen Seminar. Over 300 BK fathers, daughters, and sons joined in the liturgy. Brother Brian M. Walsh, principal, and Sister Evelyn Breslin and Brother John M. Walderman, vice principals, were on hand to greet and socialize with parents and students.

Paul McAllister, Fathers' Club president, organized the breakfast to emphasize the fathers' role in their children's lives and in the life of the Kearney community. Mr. and

Mrs. Ron Schoenberger co-chaired the event, and Brother J.F. O'Brien was moderator.

Semi-finalist

In the story regarding McQuaid National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, the student's name is Evelio Perez-Albuern.

Irish Concert

Aquinas Institute will host the Notre Dame Glee Club, Saturday, Nov. 29, 8:30 p.m. Tickets for the concert are \$4 and may be purchased from any band member or by contacting the school at 254-2020. They will also be on sale the night of the concert.



Pat Fox telling his listeners to "motivate people positively."

Weather No Deterrent To School

Sister Marie Castagnaro, St. Agnes vice principal, who was in the front ranks of the Catholic School Marathon bicyclers (Oct. 25), was impressed with the crowd that turned out on such a miserable day — "like the father," she said, "with the little tyke, not more than three or four years old, all bound up in a raincoat making the route.

"The course was nicely laid out," she commented, "flat in some areas, hilly in others, and so a kind of challenge."

Debbie Mulcahy, Student Senate officer, sang the whole way and led others. According to news reports, she went from "I Love New York" to "I Love Rochester," to "I Love Catholic Schools" to "I Love St. Agnes."

Mrs. Bette Geen accompanied bicyclers, while Miss Wenhe led the walkers. Freshman Debra Werner's whole family did the route. After returning to St. Agnes, students and teachers stopped at the convent for hot

chocolate and cookies. School proceeds will go toward a new sign and recruitment expenses.



Easy Rider

At a recent assembly Bob Armstrong, McQuaid soccer coach, demonstrates the moped that will be one of the prizes for efforts in making the school's bazaar, Nov. 14-15, a success. The event, which will feature baked food booths and boutiques, will be held in the school cafeteria from 7-11 p.m.

On The Go

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| BISHOP KEARNEY Friday, Nov. 7 — School pictures. Monday, Nov. 10 — No classes, Catholic High School teachers' meeting. Tuesday, Nov. 11 — No classes, Veteran's Day. | McQUAID Wednesday, Nov. 5 — Dismissal, 1:28 p.m.; faculty meetings, 1:45 p.m.; Parent/Teacher conferences, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 7 — Sports rally, gym, 2:07 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10 — Catholic High School faculty conference, no school. Tuesday, Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day, holiday. | OUR LADY OF MERCY Wednesday, Nov. 5 — 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 — Yearbook pictures. Monday, Nov. 10 — Joint high school teachers conference, no school. Tuesday, Nov. 11 — No school. Wednesday, Nov. 12 — Reports distributed for mid-semester. |
| CARDINAL MOONEY Wednesday, Nov. 5 — Open House; Follies rehearsal, 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 — Women's Guild Board meeting; Men's Guild general meeting. Friday, Nov. 7 — Faculty meeting. Saturday, Nov. 8 — Century Club Dinner. Monday, Nov. 10 — In-service faculty day, no school; Men's Guild Board meeting, 7:30 p.m.; Follies rehearsal, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11 — Veterans' Day, no school; Follies rehearsal 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12 — Faculty prayer meeting, 2:45 p.m.; Follies rehearsal, 7 p.m. | NAZARETH Wednesday, Nov. 5 — Yearbook pictures; CPR classes, rm. 11, 2:45-5:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6 — PATON Potluck Supper. Friday, Nov. 7 — Student Council dress up/dress down day; senior vs. faculty in volleyball. Saturday, Nov. 8 — Athletic Association pajama party. Sunday, Nov. 9 — Alumnae Homecoming, 2-5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 10 — Joint faculty in-service day; | ST. AGNES Wednesday, Nov. 5 — Faculty meeting. Friday, Nov. 7 — Fun-Night. Monday, Nov. 10 — Second quarter begins; faculty workshop, no school. Tuesday, Nov. 11 — Holiday. Wednesday, Nov. 12 — Homeroom moderator meeting. |