

RapAround

The Miles Traversed For a Catholic Education

By Martin Toombs

Elmira — While Notre Dame High School draws a majority of its students from the Elmira-Horseheads area, the school also has surprising success in attracting students from outside Chemung County.

More than 60 of the school's students, better than 10 percent, come from outside Chemung County.

The school owns a bus which brings 50 students from "the Valley," the towns of Sayre and Athens, Pa., and Waverly. Students also attend the school from Elkland, Troy, Towanda and Wyalusing, Pa., and Watkins Glen, Corning and Painted Post.

Why do these students travel as much as 50 miles each way to attend Notre Dame?

For six interviewed recently, the educational strengths and offerings at Notre Dame were of primary importance, but the students also listed family traditions of Catholic school education as being part of the story.

Five of the six students came to Notre Dame after Catholic grammar schools; none have attended a high school other than Notre Dame.

Katie Miller, a freshman, travels each day from Towanda, where she attended St. Agnes School. Each morning a family member

drives her to Ulster to catch the Valley bus to Notre Dame.

Katie noted the feeling that it is possible to "get a better education here" as being the major reason she makes the trip each day.

A classmate of Katie's at St. Agnes, Colette Filliben traveled to Towanda from her home in Troy for grammar school. Colette noted that her older brothers went to Troy High School, and a feeling that it wasn't "up to the level it should be" was part of the reason she enrolled at Notre Dame. She noted that her mother drives her to school each day, for which she is paid under provisions of Pennsylvania law.

Alyce Simon, a sophomore from Corning and a grammar school student at Corning Catholic School South, always assumed she would attend Notre Dame, she said, as her five older brothers are all graduates of the school. It is a continued interest in the academic offerings, she stated, that makes the school attractive.

Alyce noted that, along with the other Notre Dame students from Corning, she rides a bus operated by the Elmira Christian Academy, which also carries its students and students for the Seventh Day Adventist school in Elmira.

Janet Latini travels each day from her home in Sayre, and she also is following a family tradition, as three older sisters are all Notre Dame, and college, graduates. The academic success her sisters had, she noted, has preserved her family's interest in Notre Dame.

Vincent Scuteri of Watkins Glen gets a ride each day with a woman who works at the Elmira Christian Academy, he said. He is the second in his family to attend Notre Dame, while five other brothers and sisters attended public high school. He noted that his "parents want me to come" to Notre Dame, citing the better discipline there.

He also noted the value of the religious training the school offers as another reason to attend Notre Dame.

Marty Falkenberg, a junior from Athens, also cited an interest in Notre Dame's academic reputation as a major reason for making the trip each day. He, too, is continuing a family tradition.

Having to travel so far for school activities is "inconvenient at times," he commented, but something he, and the others, are willing to do.

Katie Miller noted that she sometimes gets called a "traitor," good-naturedly, she adds, when Notre Dame plays Towanda in football, but attending a school out of town really doesn't cause any problems with her former classmates.

Colette Filliben commented that when people ask her about why she attends Notre Dame, she doesn't really have an answer for them, because she doesn't want to offend anyone. But her lack of response doesn't indicate a lack of commitment to Notre Dame, she said.

Larry Spaulding, Notre Dame's vice principal, noted that the interest among students in Catholic schools outside Chemung County actually is increasing, and the indications are that the school will have more students from outside the county in the future.

Sister Mary Walter Hickey, principal, noted that in addition to the commitment required of all parents who send their children to Notre Dame, those traveling so far to the school are making an additional sacrifice in the cost of travel.

And, she noted, while parental support is necessary for such students to attend Notre Dame, the continued commitment of the students also makes the effort possible.

Notre Dame Sets Registration Date

Elmira — Students interested in attending Notre Dame High School in the fall of 1981 and their parents are urged to attend an open house at the school Monday, Jan. 12, at 8 p.m., in the school cafeteria. Faculty members will be available for questions and the facility will be open to tour. Prospective students will be treated to a drama

production and a tour conducted by Notre Dame students.

Registration will be Sunday, Jan. 18, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Monday, Jan. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m., and from 7 to 9 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Both parents and students should be present.

A Reminder: Jan. 10 Exam

Saturday is the day for the Catholic high school entrance exam for prospective freshmen. The exam will be given at 8:30 a.m. at Aquinas, Bishop Kearney, Cardinal Mooney, McQuaid, Nazareth, Our Lady of Mercy, and St. Agnes.

Blood Drive A Success

Cardinal Mooney High School held its first blood drive of the 1980-81 school year, Dec. 18. According to Mrs. Mary Jane Nier, school nurse and Red Cross Club moderator, it was a successful one with 113 people (staff and students) donating 88 pints of blood.

Chairman and coordinator for the drive was Ann Marie Casson. Jeff Swiatek was in charge of promoting the project while Mary Fleig handled recruitment and her brother Matthew took care of the scheduling. Jim Kleehammer escorted people to the refreshment table after their donation.



Winners Circle

RapAround weekly will run a photo of a group of students taken somewhere in the diocese. One person will be circled and if that person brings the clipping to the Courier-Journal before noon of the Tuesday following our publication date, he or she will receive \$5. This week's photo was taken at McQuaid at Christmas Mass. The person circled should bring the clipping to Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., by noon, Tuesday, Jan. 13 to receive \$5.

Equal Time

What do you think is the most important ingredient in a happy marriage?

NAZARETH

MAGGIE McGUIRE
Junior
band



"I feel the most important ingredient for a happy, workable marriage is communication between both husband and wife because through communication feelings are heard and discussed. Through talking with one another faults and stresses are made easier. No communication is a deterrent to a happy marriage."

MARY JANE TOMASSO
Senior
Spectrum staff



"Being able to keep your individuality while still remaining close to a person. Being able to talk to the person honestly and freely without any doubt that he won't reveal what you tell him to anyone else."

MARY ELLEN BORREGGINE
Junior
Student Council
vice president



"Because I think that marriage is a mutual bond of love between two people, trust is the important factor in a happy marriage. First you must realize you love a person and then it is through this mutual bond that trust is developed and carried out. Not trusting is a major factor in the break-up of marriages."

COLLEEN McKENNA
Freshman
Student Council



"I think the important things you need are trust and love. If you don't have these you don't have anything. These ingredients aren't in most of today's marriages and that's why they are failing. You have to work at love and trust throughout the marriage in order to make that love and trust grow."

MARY ANN KELLY
Junior
class president



"I think the first thing you have to have is a deep love. You also have to have complete trust and respect for each other. These things should be there before you even think of getting married. When you don't have trust and respect the marriage will fail. These ingredients definitely have to be worked at throughout marriage."

JODY BARBARITO
Freshman



"Trust and understanding because both partners have to understand and trust each other's beliefs. There should be trust and understanding before a person marries. People think that if they love each other that's all that counts and they don't get to know each other as well as they should."

MARY PARIS
Junior
cheerleader



"I think the most important factor is the willingness to give of yourself to the other person — be willing to make sacrifices; to have enough love and trust to be able to open-up totally to that other person. A lot of people are afraid to take the risk of being honest and open with another person and I think this can make a marriage fail."

JENNIFER BORKOWSKI
Sophomore
Lantern staff



"I think for a good marriage a couple should realize that things won't always go perfect for them. If a couple think their marriage is going to be perfect and then something goes wrong it upsets their idea of how things are going to be. This leads to arguments that can lead to a break-up. Also they have to respect each other's opinions. If they don't, conflicts start that are unnecessary."