

Echo

Mercy club spurs students to work with, care for others

By Amy Carr

Our Lady of Mercy High School

At the beginning of the school year, Mercy High School's Campus Ministry Board (CMB), chose the phrase "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring peace" as the theme for the upcoming semesters. During the past months, this theme has been continually personified through the involvement in many service projects by members of a new organization at Mercy — the Community Service Club.

Formed in September, the Community Service Club was a combined effort of theology teacher Sister Joan McAteer and campus minister Sister Maureen Servas to offer service opportunities to interested students. Being involved in and associated with a variety of service projects themselves, Sisters Servas and McAteer decided to combine their "connections" to create a student organization in which students would offer their services toward these projects.

"The Community Service Club was formed to give students an opportunity to do hands-on types of work," said Sister Servas, chief moderator of the club. "The Campus Ministry Board is involved in many large-scale projects in which students work for others. Community Service (Club) instead allows students to work with people, side by side."

The club meets once a month during scheduled activity periods to plan or participate in available service projects. Currently, some members are involved in teaching senior citizens how to sew, and such other activities as a tutoring program and work at a soup kitchen are in the planning stages.

The Community Service Club has also begun an "Adopt-A-Grandparent" program, in which students befriend senior citizens at a nearby nursing home. Members are allowed to visit their "grandparent" during each activity period, although some students visit more often.

"There are about 25 members involved in the program, and it seems to be a good experience for both sides," Sister McAteer said of the program. "The senior citizens ... share the experiences of a young teen, and the teen receives the ageless wisdom of the elderly."

Mercy's annual Christmas party and current "Spring Fling" program at the Rochester Psychiatric Center are other projects in which members have donated their services. In December of each year, students help to organize a Christmas party for patients at the psychiatric center, and at the party, sing carols to entertain patients. Students also help RPC residents open their presents. This year, many Community Service Club members attended the party, and helped bake cookies and decorate beforehand.

The club also plans to participate in Mercy's "Spring Fling," which will be held this coming April. More than 250 students are currently raising flowers that will be given to RPC residents at the party to mark the advent of the spring season. Community Service Club members plan to decorate and also assist in raising flowers for the patients.

"The flowers should cheer the patients up, and hopefully provide a little color in their lives," said club member Stacy Blossom.

Club members also recently participated in



Mercy High School students prepared Valentine's messages for hostages in Lebanon as a project of the school's Community Service Club.

Mercy's much-publicized "Valentine Project" on February 3, in which approximately 250 students wrote Valentine messages to hostages in the Middle East. As a way of answering Peggy Say's request to remember the hostages, many members of the Community Service Club used their scheduled meeting time to participate in the program, which was organized by Mercy's recruitment director, Joan Hildebrand. The letters were later sent to either a newspaper in Beirut or to Washington, D.C.

"By participating in this project, each little step (by members) is somehow bringing us closer to everything happening in the world — including the hostage crisis," Sister McAteer said.

In all of their activities, Community Service Club members have shown enthusiasm in their work. "The people that we come in contact with teach us what is important in life ... and members want to be a part of that," Sister Servas said.

DeSales High School

Is the United States taking sufficient steps to deal with terrorism?

TOM VEDORA, junior

No, I don't think that the United States is doing enough to stop terrorism. I think that the United States has just been lucky that terrorists have not yet struck in the United States. But with the hostages in Iran, President Carter tried to rescue them and look how that turned out. Hopefully, no terrorism will strike in the United States.



JEFF WILKE, junior

I think the United States has to be a lot stronger with situations with terrorism. If this is going to stop it has to be an eye for an eye because these people don't understand anything else.



As Teens See It

KEVIN BIENVENUE, sophomore

No, I don't feel they are doing a sufficient job of dealing with terrorism. Sure, the United States has men stationed in troubled areas where terrorism is high, but when the terrorists strike, most of the time (U.S.) action is not taken. The United States is one of the two super powers and should use its military to punish and prevent terrorism. If action is taken more often on terrorists, then maybe the other (terrorist) groups will think twice before attacking again.



By Paul Ciavarrì
Aquinas Institute

Like much of society, I have continually tried to find the "formula" or way that can be followed to obtain peace in this world. Not a false peace — such as the absence of war — but a real peace whereby people and nations can achieve their goals without hostility toward each other.

Recently through some college friends, I learned that a professor from the State University College at Geneseo, Dr. Donald W. DeMott, had written two excellent books on achieving peace. In them, I found a solution to my question of how to build a peaceful society.

DeMott defines peace as a way of dealing with conflicts. In fact, he offers a new way of thinking about conflicts. He finds that conflict can be seen as a chance for parties to create a new relationship, so that both sides can accomplish their goals.

The "formula" for achieving such a result is a new technology called conflict resolution. This technology uses several simple techniques for learning to build cooperative relationships out of conflicts. Instead of criticizing, judging or threatening others, it stresses conflict mapping and creative listening to understand how parties in a conflict feel their goals are being frustrated.

In addition to the use of conflict resolution, DeMott describes seven characteristics that must be present in a peaceful society. Of the seven, he finds three to be of greater importance — law, freedom and justice. Since con-

Speaking Out

Conflict resolution is not a perfect technology, a world society needs a way to retain peace when a difficulty cannot be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

Because of this, DeMott stresses a respect for international law. Furthermore, he points out that if people are told what to do by others who use threats or punishments (for example, loss of freedom), or if people live in poverty (lack of justice), then society will encounter trouble in attempting to build a peaceful society.

With this information in mind, it is rather easy to realize that peace doesn't just happen, but instead must be built. According to DeMott, the question we must ask ourselves is: "What can we do to help build it?"

DeMott offers these suggestions: Instead of viewing everyday conflicts as win-lose situations, look at them in positive terms whereby all parties achieve their goals through mutual cooperation; as a way of promoting freedom, join Amnesty International; and finally, read up on the United Nations in order to develop a greater respect for international law.

We as individuals have the ability to make the world a little more peaceful each day. We need to initiate that action.



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SPORTS TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who was the first person to play for an NCAA championship team and then coach a team to the NCAA title?

A:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with Zambito's Sport Shop will feature a Sports Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF towards any purchase at Zambito's Sport Shop, 1350 Culver Rd.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
Sports Trivia
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We received 16 correct entries identifying Lynyrd Skynyrd as the southern band who named themselves after their gym teacher.



The winner was
Arnold Die Pietro
of University of Buffalo

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who recorded the 1969 hit "Sugar, Sugar"?

A:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____

School _____

Rules:

Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier-Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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