

Echo

# Nazareth hosts in-service program to arm faculties for war on drugs

As part of the national drive for drug- and alcohol-free schools, teachers and administrators from Nazareth Academy recently participated with the faculties of other city Catholic schools in a day of in-service workshops on Friday, May 27.

Hosted by Nazareth and coordinated by Laura Klochko of Project Intervention, the day-long program featured Rochester-area professionals speaking on chemical dependency, the signs and systems of substance abuse, and strategies for prevention and intervention of abuse.

Through the workshop presentations, Project Intervention made faculty members aware of the many resources in the community — beyond the school counselor — to which that students and families could be referred for intervention services.

"The performance of the Awareness Theater was the highlight of the day's program," said Sister Dora Christian, head of Nazareth's science department. "It put in visual form the different roles the students play in a classroom when they are from a family where, for example, the parents are alcoholics.

"The faculty from all schools could recog-

nize their own students portrayed on stage, and see the situations that they had experienced in the classroom," Sister Christian said. "It hit home."

To Mary Rose McCarthy, "the question for Nazareth Academy is how to continue caring for our students through the use of a community-based model, conjoined with interaction with the students' families.

"Project Intervention emphasized that there is no 'quick fix' to the problems of substance abuse in the family or in the student," remarked McCarthy, Nazareth's assistant principal for student affairs.

Dr. Barbara Mitrano, assistant principal for curriculum, noted that students from families with substance abuse problems often exhibit behavior that affects schoolwork.

"Indicators are not only the behavior changes we expect, — such as poor grades, lack of motivation and sullen or rebellious attitudes — but also behaviors we don't usually associate with a problem student. The over-achieving, super-responsible student is not usually questioned as to motivation; instead, teachers often reinforce behavior with praise and additional duties," she said. "Today's pro-

gram let us see that this behavior may be a sign of potential trouble."

Both McCarthy and Mitrano agree with other Catholic school administrators that the support system for students has changed over the years, causing society to look increasingly to schools to provide guidance outside the academic sphere.

"Today there are several outside support systems that have shifted from being influential to being nearly non-existent," Mitrano added, citing limited church membership, a lack of ex-

tended families and changing neighborhoods as examples.

"Thus the role of the educator has altered to assume the duties that these other systems had," Mitrano remarked. She said Project Intervention is to be commended for educating teachers and administrators about such concerns.

Project Intervention is a non-profit community organization dedicated to the awareness, education and prevention of drug and alcohol abuse in the Rochester area.

## Stages of growth in a youth group

By Robert Doolittle  
NC News Service

Matt, a freshman, came to the youth group for only one reason: Elaine. She came from out of town and it was the only way he could see her.

He expected to find a group of nice, quiet religious types, but that stereotype soon was blown away. He found jock types and theater types, honors students and struggling students, rowdy people and shy ones.

Later he amused the group by telling why he had come and what he'd expected. Then he said, "But, really, this is awesome. Everyone is different and you all get along."

Matt wanted to break out of teen groups that include just one type of person, so he decided to stay in the youth group, even though he ended up going out with someone else.

Matt will go through three more major changes by the time he graduates. I've watched and helped several hundred teens live out those changes, which are set in motion when they join a spiritually active youth group.

I want to describe and name these transitions stage by stage. Everyone travels the path uniquely, but it helps to have a road map of the geography ahead.

Matt's big move was deciding to be his unique self instead of a type. He sealed that decision when he opened up and honestly told the group what had gone on with him.

Dropping that mask and opening up is the first major change that comes with youth-group membership. My name for it: Being Yourself With Others.

To illustrate the second change, I will introduce Jason. As a sophomore he always used to clutch during tests. Though he studied thoroughly, he did poorly. In the youth group he heard a lot of people talk pretty openly about their encounters with Christ as a "friend you can turn to."

So before tests he began asking for calmness and got it. Now he has his own story to tell about how Christ came through and freed up his abilities.

This is change Number 2: In a group that's open about experiences with Christ, people gradually learn to let him bring out their gifts. The name I give it: Being Your Best With Christ.

Most teens reach a critical turning point in spiritual growth during their junior years. At this point they can have great impact, but first they generally come up against a heavy-duty individual issue that — once resolved — unlocks ministry gifts that can affect the group deeply.

Here's what Cindi faced. She had a naturally warm and outgoing heart, but

## Coming of Age

didn't believe it because of a stubborn habit of self-dislike. As she grew with Christ, he led her to give up this sin, this disregard for God's view of how good she is, by talking with a priest in confession.

Feeling great relief about herself, she went on a rampage in the group, teaching people to point out what's beautiful in one another and to believe what they heard. Thanks to her, candid affirmation is now a group trademark.

Cindi had come into the special strength juniors can wield. In groups that invite peer leadership and ministry, the juniors especially discover that they have great power to change the group.

I call it: Taking Charge in a Group. Seniors are busy charting their adult course. School and job decisions loom large, and they face even bigger decisions about a basic life posture.

Laurie, a senior, watched three girls in the library tease and embarrass a socially awkward boy by sending him romantic notes. Laurie told them, "I see what you're doing and it really stinks, so quit it!" And they did.

The ability to focus Christlike anger on the evils around us erupts beautifully in seniors. Their witness of courage can make a big difference inside and outside the youth group.

I call this last big change: Taking a Stand in the World.

The qualities that break through with each change are openness, then faith, then power, then courage. These fine human qualities are latent in everyone.

In a Christ-centered youth group these qualities develop normally, illustrating in gradual stages St. Paul's words, "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation."

Robert Doolittle is youth ministry coordinator at St. Agnes Parish in Reading, Mass.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Courier-Journal continues its trial run of Coming of Age, a new youth column offered by NC News Service. Please send your comments to: Editor, Courier-Journal, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, or call (716) 328-4340.

## Bishop Kearney High School Do the Regents' exams fairly gauge a student's academic achievements?

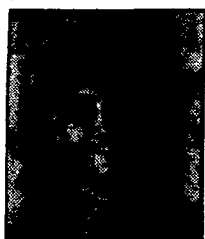
AMY DELMONTE, sophomore

No, I do not, because most of the time a person does bad on them because the person panics; they feel they have to pass it in order to receive a Regents' diploma. The Regents' exams try to trick you, and the exams are made very hard. A student may pass the class all year with a 95 average, but fail the Regents. That is no way to judge a student's achievement.



DALE GRENOLDS, sophomore

No, I do not. I feel there is a very good chance of failing even if you are very intelligent, because preparation for the exam is so vague. I'm not asking for the test (to be eliminated), but there should be some things to count on if a person could pass the course but fail the regents exam.



MICHAEL HINCHCLIFFE, junior

No, I do not. I feel that the Regents' exams have become a poor judge of a student's educational achievement. It has made teachers stop teaching a subject and start teaching how to pass the Regents. Emphasis has come off of teaching a general curriculum to what is on the Regents. Many aspects of courses are left out because



## As Teens See It

they won't be tested, not because they aren't worth learning. The Regents are becoming a measure of how well a student can take one test, and how well they can learn what will be on that test — not what a subject entails and how well they have learned that subject. I do not, however, feel that the Regents should be done away with, but less emphasis placed on them. The Regents should become again what they started out as — a way to judge statewide ability in a subject, not a way to make the whole state learn the same thing.

COLLEEN HALLIGAN, junior

No, I don't believe they are a fair judge of a student's educational achievement. Some students receive excellent grades throughout the school year and prove that they are learning their required material, but then happen to be poor test takers. These tests are what colleges and businesses look at, but they do not necessarily represent the student's capabilities accurately. I don't think the Regents' exams should be done away with all together, but I feel more emphasis should be placed on quarterly or year averages.



**Zambito's**  
Team Outfitters

**Golf - Baseball - Softball - Hockey - Football - Basketball**

We received 4 correct entries identifying the Boston Celtics as the only club to win an NBA Championship one year and miss the playoffs the next.

The winner was **Jim DellaVilla** of Rochester

**SPORTS TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**

What team did Bob Cousy play his last NBA game for?

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 papers issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

**The Courier-Journal Sports Trivia**  
1150 Buffalo Rd.  
Rochester, NY 14624

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**HOUSE OF GUITARS**  
Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98  
CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

We received 5 correct entries identifying the Regents as the original band to record the Beach Boys' hit "Barbara Ann".

The winner was **Jeff DeWandler** of Fairport

**MUSIC TRIVIA**

**This week's question:**

Who composed and sang the theme for the hit show "Welcome Back Kotter"?

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, 545 Titus Ave.

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

**The Courier-Journal Music Trivia**  
1150 Buffalo Rd.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14624