

Youth

Succinct student speech earns top prize in oratoricals

Kathryn Stubbings has a wild imagination. Normally, that might lead to trouble for a typical eighth-grader, but in Stubbings' case, it led to first prize at the eighth-annual Bishop Matthew H. Clark Oratorical Competition, which took place Saturday, Dec. 3, at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Stubbings and 27 other students from elementary schools throughout the diocese had to imagine how they would recognize Jesus today. In the case of Stubbings, a student at Rochester's St. Ambrose School, the wondering led to the first-place prize of a \$100 savings bond. Sean Bannon, from Holy Family Junior High School, Rochester, took the second prize of a \$50 savings bond, and Steven Maysonet, of St. Thomas the Apostle School, Rochester, won third place which also entitled him to a \$50 savings bond. All contestants received certificates of participation.

Stubbings rehearsed her speech for two and a half weeks before the oratoricals. The extensive practice helped her maintain her calm when she was called to the contest podium. "I wasn't really nervous, and I don't know why," she said, noting that her mother compensated for the daughter. "I was a wreck," acknowledged her mother, Donna. Stubbings has no plans for speaking engage-

ments, so the following award-winning text constitutes her oratorical efforts for the near future:

How would I recognize Jesus today?

Headlines shout: "Gunman takes 11 hostages"

"White supremacists bomb building in Boston"

"Seventy-two-year-old woman raped and beaten after robbery attempt"

These headlines speak of man's inhumanity to man and signal a dark and dismal world. They often make us feel powerless to make things better. But just when we are ready to give up all hope, something happens to restore our faith.

This was apparent to me this past spring at our parish festival. Half of the net proceeds went toward building a shelter for the homeless.

At the festival, thousands of people helped to make this project a success. This included the organizers of the festival, hundreds of parishioners who devoted precious time and energy, as well as other parishes and businesses that helped to sell tickets. Perhaps the big-

gest reason for the success of this event was the fact that people saw an opportunity, each in his own way, to become involved, to share what they have, to help others. Each and every person who participated — worker, patron, or even one of the many people who prayed for good weather, all working toward a common goal — was following the mandate Jesus gave to us in the Gospel of Matthew to "clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, shelter the homeless"

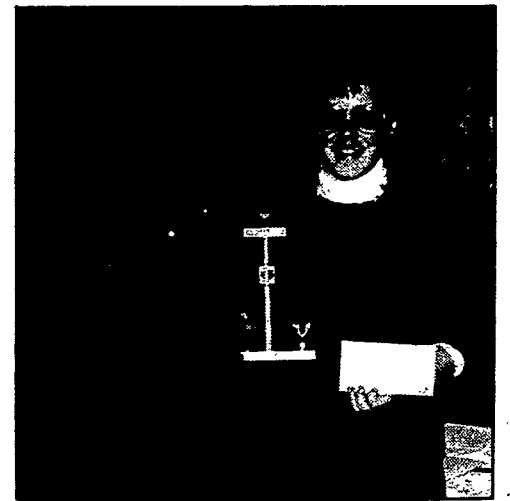
As a participant myself, I could feel the Spirit moving among the people, and I was excited and proud to be included in this special event. Their lives, our lives, and the good that we do are a sign of Christ's presence in today's world.

Sure, we hear of people like Mother Teresa and Billy Graham. We might even envy them because of their Gospel words — into-lives, and we might even wish to be more like them, but we don't have to be world-famous to be recognized as Christian. Often, we don't have to look any further than the person next to us to see Jesus alive in the world.

But St. Paul tells us that we cannot just rely on doing good. We must pray, too. When we celebrate together at Mass, we recognize Christ in the "breaking of the bread" at the Eucharist. Through prayer and good works, He continues to live through each one of us.

So don't let horrible headlines frighten you, or even get you down. Make your own good news!

"Local parish builds shelter for homeless"
"Students involved in community clean-up"
"Volunteers rescue baby trapped in well"
... and the list goes on. Good news! He lives!



Kathryn Stubbings and her speech coach, Marcia Finn, display the first-place trophy Stubbings won in the Bishop Clark Oratoricals.

The gift of grateful receiving

Coming of Age

By Linda Rome
NC News Service

The flip side of giving is receiving. And at first glance, it appears that receiving a gift is an easy discipline.

Just look at little children on Christmas morning tearing into a pile of gifts with joyous abandon. Their eyes light with the wonder of surprise, with expectancy, with the sheer fun of it all.

On their faces is the delight of knowing they are loved, for a gift is love made visible. There is no need to ask, "Do you like it? Is it the right size? You can return it if you don't like it." A child's face is a giver's gift.

But somewhere along the way we become harder to please and stingy with our gift of receiving. Perhaps we sense strings attached to the gift: strings of obligation, duty or expectation.

Sometimes a gift seems more like a burden than anything else.

At my college graduation party, I opened a card from my parents. Inside was the key to a car.

The guests said I went pale, and my parents said that was caused by the surprise. But in my heart, I felt the weight of their gift — the hours my father spent repainting and fixing the car, and even their confidence that I would use such a valuable gift wisely.

I was afraid I could not live up to that trust. Somehow it seemed to obligate me to live my life a certain way when I was struggling for

a sense of independence. I felt unworthy, so I found it hard to be grateful.

Tit-for-tat giving is another obstacle to gracious receiving, as if somewhere there is a great tally sheet that must come out even.

We may not need to keep a score card of what we owe, but there are responsibilities in the art of giving and receiving.

For example, the first Christmas I couldn't come home for the holidays, the postman delivered a hefty box from my parents. Like a child I ripped open the box and took out all the gaily wrapped presents. I sneaked a peek in the tin of cookies that smelled of Christmas at home.

My mother had included all my favorites: Brazil nuts, walnut crescents, little raspberry tarts, anise cookies, rum balls and Lebkuchen. I could hardly wait for Christmas morning to open the other gifts.

But when I did, I was disappointed. There was perfume in a scent I no longer wore, a new outfit in last year's size and a book I'd already read.

I hadn't wanted to appear greedy or selfish when my mother asked me what I wanted and I was afraid she wouldn't approve of what I really wanted, so I said, "Anything will be fine." But when she called later to share my excitement, I realized that my false pride had robbed her — and me — of my delight in her gifts.

Think back to the children around the Christmas tree. Even if the gift doesn't fit or they don't understand it, they still want it. After it's broken it sits on their shelf like a happy memory because children know instinctively that the gift was in the giving, not in the thing itself.

So in this season of giving and of receiving gifts of all kinds, give that most special gift of yourself — the gift of receiving with a grateful heart.

Speaking Out

By Mark Dudley

Cardinal Mooney High School

Larry Flynt, editor of Hustler magazine, published a parody stating that Jerry Falwell committed incest with his mother. Falwell sued Flynt for emotional distress caused by the printing of this article, as any responsible American would.

Falwell was awarded \$200,000 by a lower court. Flynt appealed the decision, as is his right. The case went to the Supreme Court which overturned the lower court's decision. Flynt did not have to pay Falwell one penny. His defense — the First Amendment!

This is a sad time in America when people can print outright lies about others and defend their grotesque actions with the most important amendment to our Constitution. I may be crazy, but I don't think our Found-

ing Fathers had a case like this in mind when they made the First Amendment. What they did have in mind was the right to use the print media to criticize the government — not to print all-out lies about someone and their mother causing emotional breakdown.

There was a statement in the article stating that it was a parody and was not to be taken seriously. My answer to that is simple — why print it? If we put ourselves in Falwell's position, I'm sure the vast majority would do the same thing. Can you imagine someone actually printing that about your mother and you? People like that need help, not a magazine.

Also, the very subject Flynt's magazine deals with — pornography — has been linked to violent crime. Yet, the First Amendment allows this to happen as well. I cannot support such an amendment.

We need to fix the damage caused by these irresponsible people. We need to return to the interpretation our Founding Fathers intended. We need to return to the Constitution that has served for the basis of young democracies around the globe.

If these irresponsible people are still allowed to print their garbage, we must repeal the First Amendment.

Group starts conscience fund

A Rochester-area group, the Faith and Resistance Community, has created a fund to provide financial and emotional support for people leaving jobs in what members describe as violence-related fields, such as military service at the Seneca Army Depot or health care at an abortion facility.

The idea for the fund originated from a retreat on nonviolence held in Advent, 1987, at the Abbey of the Genesee at Piffard. The retreat included protests at the Seneca Army Depot, alleged to be a major storage facility for

nuclear weapons, and at the Genesee Hospital, where abortions are performed.

For application information or to donate to the fund, write: Faith and Resistance Community, St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Dr., Rochester, N.Y., 14605.

Villa launches fund campaign

St. Joseph's Villa of Rochester has launched a \$1.5-million fund drive to build a new school.

To contribute to the fund or for more information, contact the Development Office, St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, 14616, 716/865-1550, ex. 284.

DeSales High School

Why and how should students demonstrate pride in their schools?

As Teens See It

KARA CATANISE, Senior —

School pride should be shown because there is a sense of loyalty to the school for the education you receive. Pride can be demonstrated in any way, whether it's cheering your team on at the games, helping teachers and other students, or just showing your colors.



DEAN ASKIN, Senior —

To show you are proud of your school, and you are enthused to be a part of it. You can do this by going to pep rallies, wearing school colors and going to support teams at games.



JENNIFER TELLIER, Freshman —

We should display school pride because we are proud of our school and spirit.



Advertisement for House of Guitars featuring a music trivia contest. Includes a question about the 1981 hit 'Jessie's Girl?' and a form for entering the contest. Rules state that winners will be selected by drawing and prizes include albums or tapes.