

# Retreat inspires students to alter ways of thinking

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

RUSH — One of the first things Anthony Carlo did when he came back from the Search '89 retreat last Sunday was to crush his cassette tapes of the heavy-metal rock groups Slayer and Venom.

The Fairport High School sophomore credited his actions to a talk on drugs and rock 'n' roll given by Nick Costello during the retreat, which took place at the Rotary Sunshine Camp Sept. 8-10.

Carlo said Costello emphasized how Satan "works" through heavy-metal songs whose lyrics often promote non-Christian values. "I didn't like some of (Costello's talk)," Carlo acknowledged. "He said that Satan was working through almost all heavy-metal bands and I like heavy metal, so that made me mad."

Nonetheless, by the end of the lecture, Carlo had come to agree with much of what Costello was saying. But he didn't crush his tapes of the heavy-metal band Metallica. "Most of what they're talking about is real-life events, real down to earth," Carlo said.

Arming teenagers to dealing with "real-life events" is the premise guiding the Search retreats, noted one of the retreat's coordinators Pat Bailey, a parishioner at the Church of the Resurrection in Fairport, which has sponsored the weekend retreat for the last 14 years.

Last weekend's affair drew 87 students from Resurrection, Ontario's St. Mary's of the Lake and Honeoye's St. Mary-Our Lady of the Hills parishes. Search '89 uses student and adult speakers to convey to participants the importance of keeping close to God. "Search is filled with opportunities to find out about God," Bailey said.

What seems to make the retreat successful is the down-to-earth nature of its talks,

according to retreat-goers. One of the more effective presentations centered on the presence of ALGAE — Anger, Lust, Greed, Adultery and Envy — in society. Cecil Bartholomew, the adult presenter, earned rave reviews from some of the teenagers.

"The way (Bartholomew) presented it was very good," commented Bailey's son, Matt Mendel, a Fairport sophomore. He noted that Bartholomew related his own experiences in struggling with his stuttering speech as an example of how one can overcome envy. "He taught himself to play guitar," Mendel said. "He's a very good athlete."

Developing his talents helped Bartholomew defeat the envy he felt for those with flawless speech, noted Mendel, who said has also had to overcome his jealousy of other people because he suffers from a hearing problem. "I can read lips. I taught myself how to do that," Mendel explained.

Debbie Schweinberger, a Fairport junior, said Bartholomew's words made her more comfortable with her own feelings regarding her looks. "I look at other people," she said, "(and) I wish that I looked the way 'she' does." Through his presentation, Bartholomew taught her that "God wants me the way I am," she said.

Seeing a mentally-retarded retreat-goer express her love for God through a song inspired Barb Best, a Fairport junior. Best and the rest of the students listened to the girl at an open-microphone sharing session toward the end of the retreat.

"She got up there in front of the mike and started singing something," Best said. "Everybody was just about in tears. We all knew what she was saying even though we didn't understand her," she added, noting that the girl had a speech problem. "I think I saw Jesus through her."



Linda Dow Hayes/Catholic Courier  
Students involved in the Search '89 retreat work as a team on Friday evening to get their dinner (three-foot-long hot dogs) back to their tables in one piece. The weekend activities took place at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush from Sept. 8-10, and involved 87 students.

# Analyzing movies, TV and viewers leads to positive experience

By Father Joe Felker  
Catholic News Service

Television and movies can provide a great variety of entertainment.

Yet some of that entertainment is negative. Some films and TV programs raise concerns, while others teach about values and life.

I believe there are tools we all can use for a reflective and positive media-viewing experience — tools that help us separate the good from the bad.

When you watch, determine the intention of the TV program or movie and your reason for watching it. Ask yourself questions like: Is it pure entertainment? Is it fantasy, a temporary escape from problems

or boredom?

Once you have determined your reason for watching and the kind of material you are viewing, you need a checklist to build your skills for interpreting the film or program's presentation of life.

First, ask yourself why the creators chose to present the material they way they did. Are people realistically and fairly portrayed? Or is the humor rooted in stereotypes, put-downs, insults and degrading remarks?

Is violence presented as the easiest solution to a problem? Is respect demonstrated for people? Is their dignity recognized? If not, why not? Does the handling of life issues conflict with your Christian values?

Think about the way sexuality is treated. Is it shown in a cheap and degrading way? Is it used to control and coerce others? Are positive relationships presented that are warm, stable and loving?

Other questions to ask are: Does this film or program present a positive view of family and family issues? Can I learn from and talk to my parents about what I see? Sometimes the subtle human interactions presented can teach us about affection, intimacy and respect for others.

After you have thought about the presentation, you need to share your insights and concerns with someone else. Some things

to discuss are: What in a movie or TV show supported your Christian values? What challenged them and what was against them?

A discussion with parents, youth ministers and friends can make a media presentation a learning experience. It can give you insights into others' values and how the Gospel life is supported by sharing things we see every day.

If everyone had these skills, we would all be better off, and I bet the quality of television and movies would be better because audiences would challenge them more.

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-MUSIC TRIVIA-

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