

Church

Continued from page 1

"Chastity is still in society today," she remarked. "We need to instill in our children and our children's children that value."

Young people must be educated about sexuality within the context of the Catholic faith, she asserted.

"We have to teach that there are other ways to go, and those other ways are to follow what is right in our hearts and our consciences," Sister Morgan explained. "If I am teaching that in the classroom, I have to be firmly convinced of that myself — and I am."

Father Bouchard agreed that chastity is crucial to efforts to preserve traditional values and overcome society's sexual problems. But he suggested that educators teach chastity as a skill people acquire through a lifetime of learning.

"Sometimes people are repelled by morality because they think that it is an authority or demands obedience," Father Bouchard observed. "But it comes from within; it's an acquired skill."

As an educator, Anne Wegman Paluskiewicz emphasized that sexuality involves more than reproduction and should be viewed in its broadest context. A person

can be sexual without being sexually active, she noted.

"To abstain is not to deny sexuality but to limit sexual activity," explained Paluskiewicz, the diocese's associate director of youth ministry for sexuality education. "And to abstain gives more meaning to the sacrament of marriage."

Paluskiewicz also noted that teenagers are not the only people confronted with decisions regarding sex outside of marriage. Today many people marry later in life, and others find themselves single again due to divorce or death. Thus, she said, chastity is a challenge for people of all ages.

Unwed couples can express their feelings in ways other than sexual intercourse, she pointed out. "Hold hands, tell jokes, dance until you drop," the educator suggested.

Paluskiewicz explained that people who are not ready to commit to marital relationships frequently lack the emotional maturity needed to commit to sexual involvement.

"You are not going to find yourself when you are making love unless you have something to offer. Abstinence helps you discover yourself," she said.

In addition to denying their Catholic faith, Paluskiewicz said, people engaging in pre-marital sex run the risk of emotional pain because of their actions.

"It's hard enough to walk away from a relationship where there has not been sex, let alone one where there has been," she observed.

"It is a myth that sex will hold everything together (in a relationship). It won't and it can't," she said.

As a counselor to AIDS patients and their families, Father Matthew Kawiak has seen sexual activity shatter people's lives. Issues of sexuality, he observed, "are problems that go beyond simply our Catholic culture."

The co-author of *Parents Talk Love: The Catholic Family Handbook About Sexuality*, Father Kawiak emphasized the importance of education — especially in the home — in preventing the pain and suffering created by teen pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

"Parents who understand how their children behave, who are that close to them, will hopefully know how best to teach them how to prevent this pain," explained Father Kawiak, parochial vicar at St. Boniface parish.

Father Kawiak said parents need to be honest with themselves and evaluate their own attitudes toward human sexuality before they can teach their children. Only in examining their own feelings and fears can they talk openly with their children about sex, he asserted.

Monsignor William H. Shannon, professor emeritus of religion at Nazareth College, acknowledged that many Catholics are dealing with real fears about sexuality.

To help the faithful deal with these fears, Monsignor Shannon suggested that the church define a more wholesome concept of sexuality.

Most Christian teachings on sexuality have been set forth in prohibitions, Monsignor Shannon noted. Today, he said, the church is torn between its prophetic role of being countercultural and its need to be in tune with what God is saying to his people.

"We don't accept sins of materialism, selfishness and greed, but we also can't let the church be like a museum that houses things of the past," warned Monsignor Shannon.

In establishing a sense of wholeness concerning sexuality, Monsignor Shannon suggested that the church listen to the views of married people who are trying to live their values in their own sexuality. At the same time, however, the church must continue to struggle actively with the issues of human sexuality, he said.

"If we try to suppress sexuality, it can do great harm," Monsignor Shannon said. "But the opposite of suppression is not necessarily indulgence."

Paluskiewicz concurred that the answer is neither suppression nor indulgence of individual sexuality. Yet she said Catholics can adhere to traditional church teachings while working to understand individuals' development as sexual beings.

"Abstinence needs to be seen as a livable alternative, and it definitely is livable," Paluskiewicz asserted.

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Corrections

Two of the appointments on page 10 of last week's *Catholic Courier* were incorrect. Father John R. Burke was appointed temporary moderator for pastoral care at St. Michael's Church, Rochester, concurrent with his role as assisting priest-in-residence at Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier rectory, effective June 25, 1991.

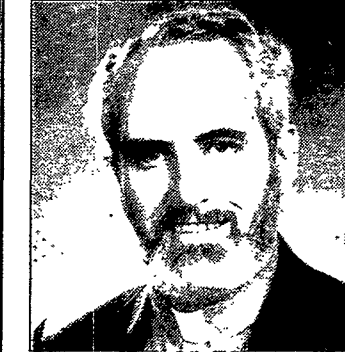
Father Michael J. Bausch, pastor of St. Helen Church in Gates, will take his sabbatical at the Weston School of Theology in Boston, Mass. We regret the errors.

61st ANNUAL SOLEMN NOVENA TO SAINT ANNE

July 18 to 26, 1991
Nightly at 7:30 p.m.
1991 Theme: In Hope of God's Glory
Guest Preacher: Fr. David P. Reid, SS.CC.

Thursday, July 18	"The grace in which you stand" <i>Romans 5:1-11</i>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Saint Anne</i></p>
Friday, July 19	"This is my son, my chosen, listen to him" <i>Luke 9:28-36</i>	
Saturday, July 20	"Our Lord is above all gods" <i>Psalms 135</i>	
Sunday, July 21	<i>Rosary Tableau</i> : special rendition of the fifteen mysteries	
Monday, July 22	"Anointed... to bring good news" <i>Luke 4:16-20</i>	
Tuesday, July 23	"My blood poured out for many" <i>Mark 14:21-31</i>	
Wednesday, July 24	"Blessed is she who believed..." <i>Acts 1:12-24; Luke 1:45-55</i>	
Thursday, July 25	"From one degree of glory to another" <i>2 Cor 3:4-18</i>	
Friday, July 26	"Blessed are your eyes and ears" <i>Sirach 44:1,10-15; Matt 13:16-17</i>	

Solemn Eucharist for the Feast of Joachim and Anne



David P. Reid, born in Ireland and a priest-brother of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts is the Pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Church, Rochester, New York. Before coming to Rochester, Father Reid taught Biblical theology in the Washington D.C. area. The Novena will be a time to celebrate a Roman Catholic approach to the Bible and will center on the dynamic presence of the Risen Lord. God's outreach for most of us is woven into the story-telling of our lives, be that the story of Mary, of Anne, or of our own individual story.

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