

"Prayer unites us with God and makes us brothers and sisters."

-Pope John Paul II

Graduation '94

To recognize the achievements of seniors at both public and Catholic high schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester, the *Catholic Courier* will present a special Graduation '94 supplement in its issue of June 9.

This annual section includes feature articles, listings of graduating seniors, information on commencement exercises, and photographs of class valedictorians and salutatorians.

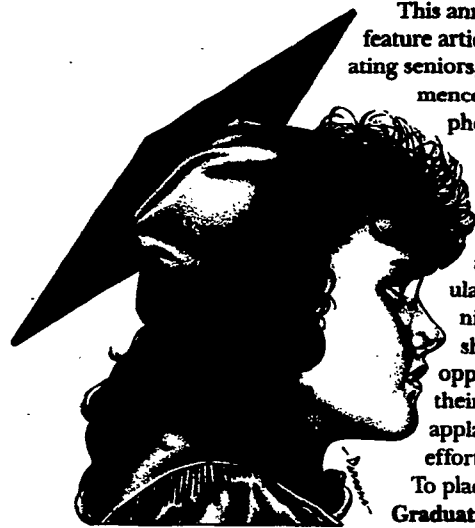
This annual supplement has long been among our most popular, and local companies and organizations should find it an ideal opportunity to promote their enterprises while applauding the scholastic efforts of diocesan youths. To place an advertisement in Graduation '94, call:

Bernie Puglisi or Kathy Welsh at:
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Catholic Courier

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Centering prayer offers entry into the 'silence'

Intimacy with God, by Cistercian Father Thomas Keating, Crossroad (New York, 1994), 168 pp., \$14.95.

Reviewed by Margaret O'Connell
Catholic News Service

At a time when warnings sound from many quarters about the Catholicity and orthodoxy of centering prayer, Father Thomas Keating's *Intimacy with God* is heaven-sent. So, gentle reader, drop everything and buy this new work by Father Thomas Keating, regardless of the effort or the effect on your budget.

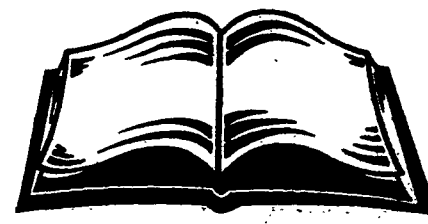
Father Keating reviews the history of centering prayer, locating it in the writings of John Cassian and the Desert Fathers of Christianity's first centuries.

He also describes the more recent origins of centering prayer in the 14th-century book *The Cloud of Unknowing*, the writings of St. John of the Cross and in the Cistercians' efforts to revive contemplative prayer and the mystical teaching of the church's spiritual masters, who had been almost completely ignored for centuries.

Father Keating, who founded the support-prayer group Contemplative Outreach, notes that the massive movement of Catholics toward Eastern religions in search of the contemplative dimension indicated what was lacking in their own religious training and milieu.

When describing the origins of the Catholic charismatic renewal in the '60s, Father Keating notes the unmet need of Catholics for the experience of prayer and for belonging to a Christian community. Wisely, he suggests the Scriptures as a bridge between charismatics and Catholic centering prayer.

In other chapters, Father Keating discusses the Trinitarian, Christological and ecclesial dimensions of centering prayer; thoughtful Scripture reading



BOOKREVIEW

(Lectio Divina); the role of will and intention in centering prayer; the use of a symbol or word as a sign of our consent to the presence and action of God during the time of centering prayer; the formation of Outreach; and the contemplative use of the rosary.

The summary chapter, "Toward Intimacy with God" — what a lovely goal — gives the deepest, dearest, freshest reasons for centering prayer.

"There is no word in the Trinity except the Eternal Word, this Word spoke once in absolute silence. And it is only in silence that we hear it."

Contemplative prayer, the normal development of the practice of the Christian life, requires a constantly deepening relationship with Jesus. And how better to respond to Jesus who initiates this relationship than to imitate him whose activity is self-emptying, whose native tongue is silence?

Acquaint yourself with centering prayer through *Intimacy With God*. Like Jesus, centering prayer has come up from the wilderness, a column of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the fragrant powders of the merchant. (Song of Songs 3:6)

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Movies mostly miss mark

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following are capsule reviews of movies recently reviewed by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting.

'Clean Slate'

(MGM) Affable vehicle for comic Dana Carvey, who plays an amnesia-prone private eye bluffing his way through a danger-laden case involving a duplicitous beauty (Valeria Golino), a murderous mobster (Michael Gambon) and a stolen coin worth millions. Director Mick Jackson maintains a breezy tempo in a goofy plot that hits as often as it misses its comic targets. Fleeting violence, implied affairs and an instance of rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'Crooklyn'

(Universal) Uneven, serio-comic picture of an African-American family living in Brooklyn during a summer in the 1970s, seen mostly through the experiences of a 10-year-old girl (Zelda Harris) with loving but troubled parents (Alfre Woodard and Delroy Lindo) and four rambunctious brothers. Director Spike Lee brings sensitivity to this portrait of a youngster whose childhood ends with a death in the family, but the result is squandered in aimless byplay with her raucous brothers, overbearing aunt and neighborhood eccentrics. Domestic turmoil, a sexual situation, a bathroom scene, petty thefts, glue-sniffing and

coarse language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is PG-13 — parents are strongly cautioned that some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

'Dream Lover'

(Gramercy) Glossy melodrama in which the contented life of a prosperous young architect (James Spader) is shattered when he discovers his alluring wife (Madchen Amick) is not what she seems. Writer-director Nicholas Kazan creates an aura of suspense with intriguing characters but the static narrative barely moves beyond the central premise of a naive husband and his malevolent wife. A few bedroom scenes with nudity, adulterous references, brief violence and intermittent rough language. The USCC classification is A-III — adults. The MPAA rating is R — restricted.

'3 Ninjas Kick Back'

(TriStar) Uninspired sequel in which the three ninja-loving youngsters (Max Elliott Slade, Sean Fox and Evan Bonifant) land in Japan to rescue their grandfather (Victor Wong) from an evil rival bent on stealing the old man's ceremonial dagger. Director Charles T. Kanganis adds a perky girl ninja to the formula but limits the entertainment to unconvincing bouts between the four children and dozens of adult opponents — with always predictable results. Martial-arts violence and some menace. The USCC classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The MPAA rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.