

Catholic Courier

Fall Harvest section starts after page 10.

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Spirituality OF MEN ♂

By Mike Latona, Staff writer

Groups strive to connect on a deeper level

When asked to join a new men's group at their parish, response among adult male members of St. Charles Borromeo Church ranged from willingness to skepticism — and downright confusion.

"I thought it was the Men's Club," remarked Vin DeLucia.

Nearly two months after the group's initial meeting, much of the confusion has disappeared. And although some skepticism remains, members' enthusiasm is soaring for these get-togethers.

For many, the meetings represent a rare opportunity to explore men's issues exclusively in the presence of other males.

Father Edward L. Palumbos, pastor of St. Charles, explained that he began the meetings at the Greece parish to fill a void men face in a society that expects males to repress their emotions and inner thoughts.

"It's the need to do more than the superficial stuff," said Father Palumbos. "It fills the need for men to share in a way that's safe beyond sports. It's tough for us guys to share on a feeling level and it becomes a little difficult for most men, but it's at the central part of our spirituality."

"The Men's Club is the social group, and this is the 'touchy-feely' group," remarked St. Charles parishioner Andy Gray. "I'm not a touchy-feely person and I don't know if it's because I hate it, or because I've never had an opportunity. But (the meetings are) something

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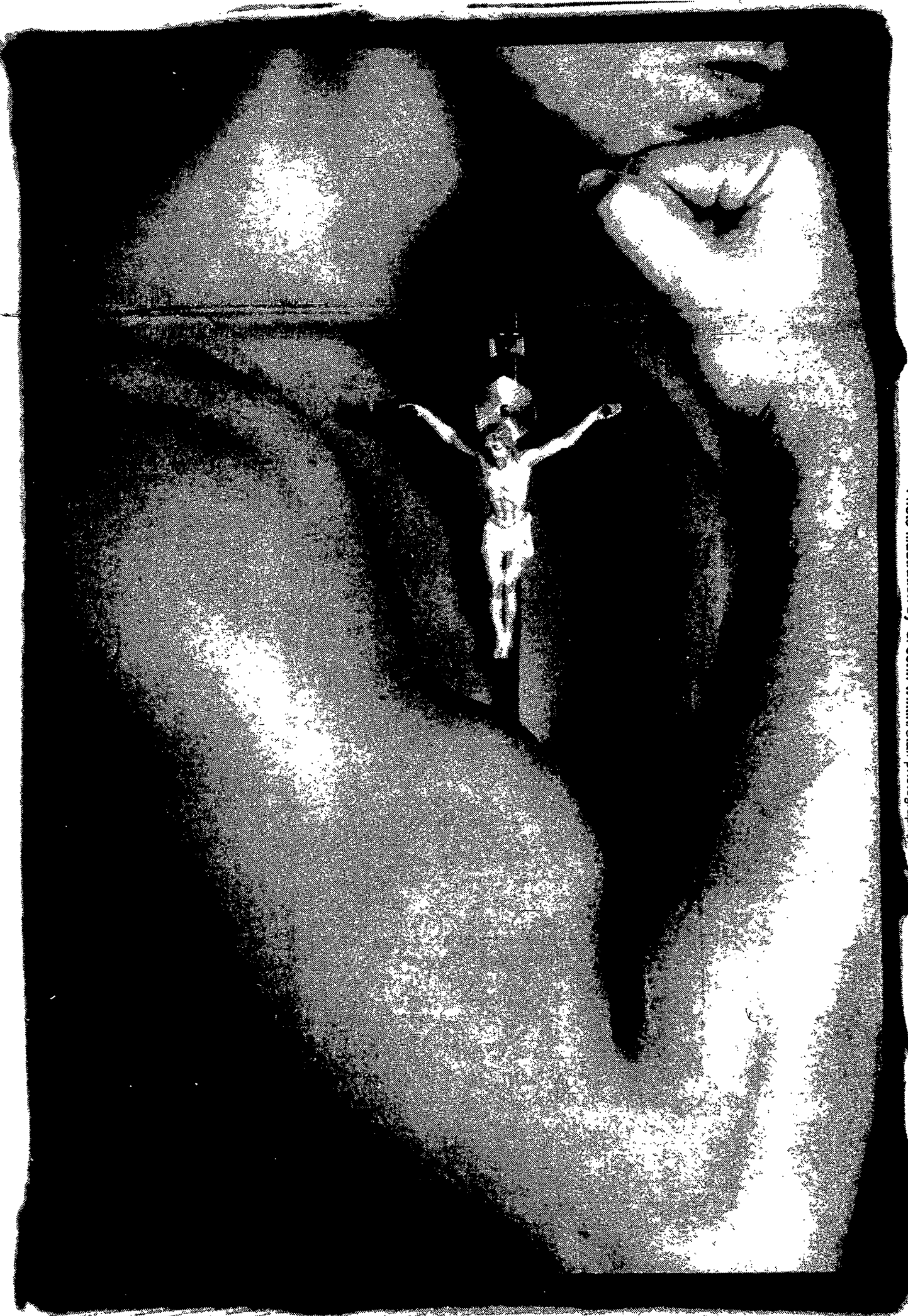
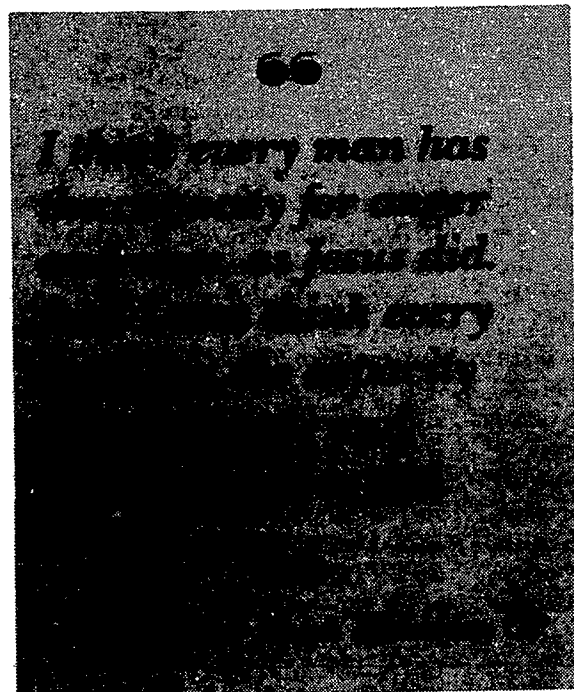


Photo illustration by S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer



I think every man has the capacity for anger and pain as Jesus did. I think every man has the capacity for love and joy as Jesus did.

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