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Giovanna Christopher is defraying future car and college expenses by waitressing at a Seneca Falls pizzeria.



Setting the priests' dinner table is one of Brian Mayeu's responsibilities at Rochester's Holy Family Church.

Another diocesan teen who handles responsibility well is Ray Marsh, 17, a parishioner at St. Salome's Church in Irondequoit. He's a supervisor at two part-time jobs: at Cindy's Cinnamon Rolls in Irondequoit Mall, and at Sea Breeze Amusement Park, where he has worked every summer since he was 14. "My parents have taught me well. They've always pushed me to do my best," Ray remarked.

Of course, another great incentive for excelling in a part-time job is ... payday! John has put his income from Hornell Country Club toward a pair of in-line skates and a snowboard. For Brian Mayeu, 16, his part-time wages from Rochester's Holy Family Church help support such hobbies as woodworking. Brian has been a weeknight rectory assistant for the past three years at his parish, serving as receptionist and cleaning the kitchen and dining area.

On the other hand, Seneca Falls resident Giovanna Christopher, 16, is looking long-range with her part-time income. Although the St. Patrick's Church

parishioner has put some funds from her waitressing job at Gino and Joe's Restaurant toward Christmas presents, she's also saving up for a car and college.

Some teens point out that the benefits of their part-time work are not limited to their paychecks. Megan Potson, 17, for one, is getting a good start toward her career goals with her work at Artistic Greetings in Elmira.

The company takes personalized gift orders from all over the United States on its toll-free telephone line. Some customers who call are only able to speak Spanish, and that's where Megan comes in. Having taken several Spanish courses at Southside High School, Megan is usually able to get all the necessary information from those customers.

Since Megan plans to study Hispanic cultures in college next year, she said her current job is a perfect opportunity to polish her communication skills.

"It's well worth it, definitely," said Megan, a parishioner at St. Mary's Southside Church. "If it wasn't for the Spanish aspect and if it wasn't fun, I'd probably want to do something like baby-sitting. But this looks good on my resume."

Brian of Holy Family is looking to get a jump on his career by taking on extra work next summer.

"I want to own my own business in general contracting, so I'd like to get a second job helping somebody with construction," he said. "Then, after college, I could go say, 'I did this,' and it would look a lot better."

Michelle in Greece not only works at Buckman's Dairy, but also volunteers at Park Ridge Hospital during the summer months.

"I get really bored in the summer, and I want to be a surgeon when I grow up," she explained.

During the school year, however, part-time workers can only wish they were bored. Ray in Irondequoit said "it's not very easy at all" to work 20 hours a week at Cindy's Cinnamon Rolls.

"Sometimes it's a lot of late nights," he said. "I start homework at 10:30."

Ray is also involved in several musical activities at Eastridge High School and is a religious-education instructor, lector, eucharistic minister and musician at St. Salome's.

"I'm too well-rounded," he joked.

Brian at Holy Family maximizes his time by bring his school books to work.

"It's pretty good — I can do some of my homework while (the priests are) eating or I'm waiting for the phone to ring," he said.

Yet John in Hornell does not have the luxury of study time at his busy restaurant job. And on weekends, there are precious few hours for a social life, either.

"What teenager wants to be in a dish room on a Saturday or Friday night?" he reasoned.

Can't argue with that point, John.

To get through the tough evenings and long weekends, the common opinion is that good rapport with co-workers and customers can relieve much of the monotony of part-time work.

"The people I work with, I know them all. They keep me on my feet and make me laugh," said Giovanna in Seneca Falls.

John said his promotion from dishwasher to busboy in Hornell not only meant an increase in pay, but "it's a lot nicer because you get to meet the people."

Michelle thrives on waiting on doughnut-shop regulars such as "Vinnie, Alan, the man who's deaf, and my uncle — Uncle Louie, the Doughnut Man!"

"It's fun," Michelle added. "Time flies — I don't even feel like I've been here four hours."

Story by

staff writer

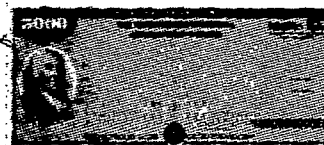
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