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ould you be willing to say that in a cowded hallway at a public school?

Would you risk becoming the target of taunts?

If you voiced your faith everyday, would you be prepared to clash with school policy?

Or would you trust that your peers would support you? And that you'd be respected for standing up for your beliefs?

Then there's the other alternative: You could keep your mouth shut.

That's the safe way out. But as Catholics, aren't we also taught to spread the good news?

How do yeu deal with this struggle – being taught certain beliefs at your Catholic parish, and having them challenged at school?

Eric Griffin of Corning is sensitive to both extremes of this issue. His approach is to affirm his Catholic faith by

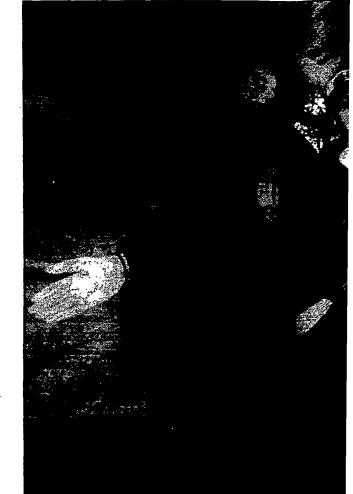
wearing a reli-

gious necklace to school.

"Those little signs in everyday life — it's a subtle way" of expressing his beliefs, he said.

But Eric, a junior at Corning West High School, stops short of any action or dialogue that's "right in your face," as he puts it. Excess enthusiasm such as door-to-door tactical sed by hovah's consess, he feels at turn people

down their throat and it's not what they want, it's only



Dave Redlinski and Sarah Wray, parishioners at Gua scene outside their Henrietta church.

going to make things worse," commented Eric, a parishioner in the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community.

Shaun Rudy, who attends Fairport's Church of the Resurrection, concurs.

"I'm not going to walk around carrying a Bible," said Shaun, 15, a sophomore at Fairport High School. On the other hand, he said, he'll be happy to explain his convictions to anyone who asks.

For instance, Shaun found his beliefs challenged this fall — and he did not hesitate to use Bible passages in his rebuttal.

In response to pro-choice stances taken by some classmates, Shaun wrote an article explaining his pro-life views for his journalism class. He quoted Old Testament passages, including Deuteronomy 30:19 — "Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live" — and Micah 6:7 — "Shall I give my first-born for my ime, the fruit of my body for the sin of

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소소Coming Soon in the Catholic Courier 소소

Pilgrimages/Travel
Publication Date: Jan. 18th
Advertising Deadline: Jan 4th



As readers measure inches of snow, this supplement will tempt them with more favorable climates while serving as a planning guide for domestic and foreign travel. It will also highlight shrines and religious sites.

Marriage
Publication Date: Feb. 1st
Advertising Deadline: Jan. 18th



Bonus distribution at Marriage Preparation Programs during 1996. This year's marriage section will overview Catholic teaching on the sacrament of marriage and consider liturgical aspects of the wedding celebration.

A scene you'll never see in a public school: Youths

join in prayer and song during a Dec. 2 teen Mass

at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece.

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