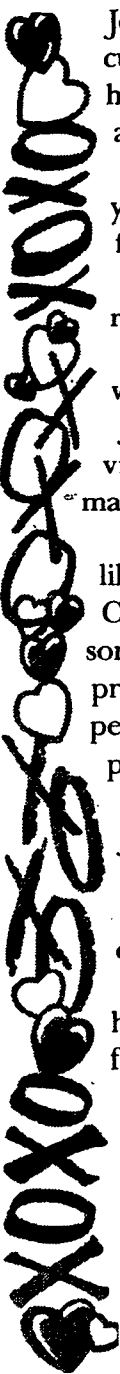


ON THE MOVE

True Love

Waits

Story by staff writer Mike Latona ♥ Photo illustrations by staff photographer Matthew Scott



Jennifer Rinere has had boyfriends in the past and is currently dating somebody steadily. At 15 years old, she has reached an age where the possibility of sexual activity is very real.

"I've thought about it and been tempted. When you're really close to someone, you never know how far you might go," Jennifer said.

But Jennifer hasn't used her significant relationships to engage in premarital sex.

"I know I'm not ready. I would never go all the way," she said.

Jennifer added that she doesn't plan to surrender her virginity for several years, preferring to wait until she is married.

"Every teenager wonders what (sex is) going to be like," said Jennifer, a parishioner at St. Cecilia's Church in Irondequoit. "(But) it scares me sometimes — all the risks you have, like AIDS and pregnancy. And I'd hate to do it with the wrong person; what if I ended up not even loving the person?"

Besides the risk of health-related problems it poses, Jennifer said sexual activity among unmarried teens signals a breakdown in morals.

"When I hear about 13-year-olds having sex, it disgusts me," Jennifer said.

Jennifer noted that she was assisted in developing her viewpoints by both her family and her Catholic faith.

"My mother has always tried to tell me what is right. When I ask her about it, she's open to talk about it. She wants me to know the risks," Jennifer said. "And the church's view is really good. My religion, and the way I was brought up, tie in very closely together."

Michael Philpott of Elmira is another teen whose views on sex were influenced by his faith. In 1994, Michael took part in a national movement for



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☆☆ Coming Attractions ☆☆ from the Catholic Courier

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Publication Date: August 8th
Advertising Deadline: July 25th
The Rochester Diocese has made lifelong Christian education its top priority. Thus, as students gear up for the first day of school, the Courier will make its annual study of trends, developments and issues in education — from kindergarten to the continuing education of adults, from Catholic schools to religious education programs.



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