

Why strong way?

Matthew Scott

prayer life has undergone some change as he's grown older. For example, he said, "I can just have a conversation with God. It's like an alternative form of praying the Our Father."

However, Luke said, he might not respond too well to a drastic change in his prayer life.

"I could probably adapt over time, but it would probably bother me at first," Luke said.

Tami observed such a situation at the annual Diocesan Youth Convention, held Aug. 2-4 at SUNY College at Geneseo. During an Aug. 3 liturgy, most of the youths — and even the celebrant, Bishop Matthew H. Clark — seemed to enjoy the frequent hand-clapping that took place. However, Tami recalled, some teens were reluctant to join in.

"At first we were like, 'What are they, too good for us?' But then they began to clap," Tami recalled.

One of the convention's most popular workshops was titled "Jammin' With Jesus: Creating New Ways to Pray." Approximately 150 of the 450 conventioners attended the two workshop sessions conducted by Sue Versluys, youth minister at St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport.

Christie from Newark Valley was intrigued by one idea she discovered



during the workshop: a Scripture-related slide show for a Sunday Mass.

"It gives you different ideas and different perspectives in a visual way," Christie said.

Carrie Barnhart, also from St. John's in Newark Valley, said she plans to run the slide-show concept by her pastor, Father William Moorby. Something new, she feels, would offer balance to the standard ways of celebrating Mass.

"After a while you get so used to it, you don't get as much out of it," remarked Carrie, 15. "Tradition is good, but you can add more to it."

Carrie emphasized that she doesn't believe in a total 'out with the old, in with the new' philosophy.

"If you change everything, a lot of people would be lost," she remarked.

Any noticeable change in the Mass structure gets a thumbs-down from St. Thomas the Apostle's Mike Follaco.

"I don't really go for that," said Mike, 17. "I just think that during Mass, people shouldn't be clapping. There should be more silent reverence for the God who's at the tabernacle."

Mike also doesn't buy the argument that prayers such as the Our Father and Hail Mary become too repetitious. They must be of great value to a great many Catholics, he said, because "for hundreds and hundreds of years, people have been saying these prayers."

With a strong focus, Mike said, traditional prayer can always carry great meaning.

"If you want to just go and say the all the words, then obviously it won't be very helpful to you," Mike said. "Then again, if you really meditate on the words and the mysteries, you can get a lot out of it. You can think of all the struggles in your life and how God can help you."

Despite all these varying viewpoints on prayer, nobody is necessarily wrong, said Todd Esposito.

"The way that I like to pray may not be the way you like to," remarked Esposito, the youth minister at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville.

Esposito said that as a youth leader, he's not as concerned with *how* teens pray — it's that they *are* praying.

"I try to get them into the mind-set of choosing a time or place each day, for five minutes or whatever they're comfortable with, and give that time to God," he said.

Esposito noted that many youths hesitate to seek deeper communication with God. However, he said, an atmosphere of welcoming — in youth group or in other parts of church life — can lead teens toward a better prayer life.

"You try and welcome each other into the community and let them have a sense of belonging," Esposito said. "Once they feel secure emotionally, they're not afraid to pray with you."

Mike Follaco, a parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Rochester, prefers more traditional approaches to prayer.

CK

THE DOMINICAN SISTERS OF HAWTHORNE

Share a Great Compassion

We seek women who are growing in their love of God, and desire to join a community with a strong spiritual, apostolic and community life.



"I realized Jesus' love for me, and I desired to offer myself totally to Him in return. I have definitely made a right choice to be with the Hawthorne Dominican Sisters, for I

have been experiencing many joys and peace in my heart. I sought and found a school where Jesus teaches me how to love and serve Him and His people."

Sr. Thanh Originally from Vietnam, she and her family came to the United States as refugees and settled in Dallas, Texas.

Education: B.S. degree in Medical Records Administration Marymount College, Salina, Kansas; Nursing degree, Pace University, Pleasantville, New York. Prior Experience: Cancer Coordinator.



Living our vows and participating in the life of the Church by prayer and sacraments, gives us the ability to serve God in this apostolate. We nurse incurable cancer patients in our seven free, modern nursing homes, located in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Minnesota.

Many who enter our community have no prior nursing experience, but we all share a great compassion for the suffering poor and delight at being able to help them.

PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CONGREGATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Sr. Marie Edward
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
600 Linda Avenue
Hawthorne, NY 10532
(914) 769-4794

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE () _____

Is there a loved one in your life who needs a little TLC?

At Tender Loving Care, we understand that your busy schedule can make it difficult for you to spend as much time as you would like helping your loved ones. Put your mind at ease and let our **Companion-Homemakers** visit with them. Whether it's writing letters, reading, cooking, or light housekeeping, our specially trained staff can help. Wherever your loved one is-at home, in a hospital or in a nursing home, we can provide some extra special attention.



383-0560

Using the Gift of



TENDER LOVING CARE

KATS),
e family.
loss,

AMERICAN
CANCER
SOCIETY
NATION OF LIFE