

# On the Move

Guidance counselor: 1. Parent. 2. Teacher. 3. Friend.

Depending on the student and situation, all of those definitions could fit Joe Biondolillo.

"You can be a surrogate parent. You're dealing with a youngster for more hours than a parent would, in some cases," said Biondolillo, who has been the guidance director at Nazareth Academy for eight years.

Biondolillo pointed out that guidance counselors fall into a unique category among school administrators. Not only do they get involved in the students' academic lives, he said, but the one-on-one nature of their work also helps them get to know youths on a personal level as well.

"We're dealing

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with the formulation of their lives, their maturity, their spiritual and educational formation," Biondolillo said.

Biondolillo added that he has counseled students on such matters as academic struggles; conflicts with teachers; preparation for college; and relationships with friends or family members.

"In my business,

it's the personal contact," Biondolillo said.

A good example of how such rapport develops occurred two years ago when Biondolillo met with Rajeene Rainey, then a sophomore, about her falling grades. Rajeene revealed to him that she was having family problems, and he patiently helped her sort out her struggles.

Rajeene said it was easy to reveal her personal life

to Biondolillo to trust him.

"He's been through nine through says, I really remarked R. senior.

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Nazareth Academy guidance counselor Joe Biondolillo finds himself called upon to discuss varied options for the future with students such

## Contest winner earns \$100 prize

Winning art contests is nothing new for 18-year-old Andrea Lipomi.

"In third grade, I won a Triple-A (American Automobile Association) safety poster contest," Andrea recalled.

Ten years later, Andrea has finished on top again. She is the winner in the *Catholic Courier's* "On the Move" T-shirt design contest.

Andrea received \$100 for her winning design. She was selected from among several entries submitted during the contest, which ran from February to August. Her design — which depicts teens in varying attire and activities — will become a permanent addition to the "On the Move" section.

By throwing herself into the project, Andrea recalled, she was able to submit her completed



entry within a few days.

"I remember staying up late one night making a pencil design, and the next couple of days I worked on refining it," said Andrea, whose family attends St. Leo's Church in Hilton.

She said she was pleased with the finished design — as was her family.

"I thought it looked good and had a chance (of winning)," she remarked. "My grandma wanted a copy of it."

In addition to her drawing expertise, Andrea also enjoys ceramic sculpture, metal working, painting and calligraphy. She noted that she has begun doing some projects for pay, and that she's considering a career as an artist.

"It's an option that I'm holding," she said.

—Mike Latona

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