

APRIL

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

1997

Sat./Sun.



milking and milking are a few of the things that keep Matthew and Monica Krenzer busy all week on their family's dairy farm.

Sunday afternoons visiting her older brother and sister, who no longer live at home. When she was younger, she added, Sundays were set aside for family visits to her grandmother following Mass. However, Melissa now struggles to mesh her Sabbath observances with

her part-time job schedule. Because she doesn't turn 16 until May 8, she has been bound by law to only work on weekends. Therefore, she takes on a

fair amount of Sunday shifts. Melissa Johnson is another teen who feels that her schedule makes it nearly impossible to set entire Sundays aside for rest.

"I can't really do that. I have track (practice and meets) six days a week, and I have homework," said Melissa, 14. She and her brother Joshua, 16, are parishioners at St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen.

Melissa Magin said that such struggles are a reflection of modern society. "No one has time for anything now," she remarked.

Dave and Sarah observed that the general perception of Sundays as restful days has dwindled in recent years. Dave noted that when his parents were growing up, for instance, it was unheard of for stores to be open on Sundays. Sarah, meanwhile, said that her parents "couldn't go places with their friends because nothing was open."

Now, however, "things are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Dave said. "People see it as not really a big deal; they don't really pay attention to the Catholic perspective."

Despite the clear intent of the Third Commandment, Joshua and Melissa

Johnson don't see the current trend reversing itself any time soon.

"We're so used to it," Melissa said. "We're not a society run by religion. It's run by government," Joshua added.

Sarah, however, said that this isn't necessarily a healthy sign.

"Everybody's a lot more busy than they used to be. Maybe it's not a good idea that (businesses) are open, because people are running around going nuts," Sarah commented.

"I think people are losing their sight of what God said. We're more profit-oriented," Matthew added. "I think they do need to recognize there's a day they should take a break. I don't think they're following what God wants them to do."

Melissa Magin added that people's schedules should never become so crowded that Sabbath observance is eliminated completely.

"I don't think anybody's too busy to go to church," Melissa said.

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