

# on the MOVE

## The Rosary: A traditional — and comforting —

Story by Mike Latona

Earlier this year, Chris De Millo staffed a parish confirmation retreat during which he offered instruction on the rosary. The level of knowledge on this subject, he observed, was decidedly mixed.

"There were a lot of people who didn't know about it," said Chris, 15, a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls.

Meanwhile, June Brown recently conducted a poll of all seventh- and eighth-grade students at St. Francis de Sales/St. Stephen's School in Geneva, where she teaches. Of those 48 students, Brown said that only about one-third practice the rosary at least occasionally.

That even that many do so is in part a tribute to Brown. She ensures that all students have at least some knowledge of the rosary by the time they graduate from St. Francis/St. Stephen's. She has taught the rosary in various Catholic schools for the past 20 years, and currently prays the rosary each school day with her fourth-grade class.

"It's always been my belief that these prayers are more effective if young people are saying them," Brown commented. "Children are more sincere, more innocent."

For Susan Osborne, her third-grade class with Brown marked the first time she had ever heard about the rosary.

"Before that, it was just a bunch of

beads," said Susan, now 16, a parishioner at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva and a sophomore at Geneva DeSales High School.

Since that time, the rosary has become an intricate part of Susan's faith life. She said that she values the rosary as a source of comfort.

"Teenage life is a rough time. Sometimes you just need to sit down and pray, and the rosary is a good way to do that," Susan said.

She added that by praying the rosary during these somber times, "I feel better because I'm talking to God and he knows what I'm going through."

James Duchesne said he finds similar satisfaction in praying the rosary.

"I'll do it if something's bothering me. I do it to calm down," said James, 13, from

Geneva's St. Francis de Sales Church. He added that his family will pray the rosary together "if someone in the family is sick, or if someone we know is having problems."

James is yet another student who learned about the rosary through Brown at St. Francis/St. Stephen's.

When Brown was his second-grade teacher, James is currently a seventh-grader there.

"I knew the rosary before, but when I went to Miss Brown's class, I learned a little more stuff I hadn't been taught at home," James said.

Brown noted that the rosary is rooted in its devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. She added that Mary has made 15 promises for those who pray the rosary regularly. Some of those promises include: Mary will intercede for



Melissa Greene



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