

Adoption



ive parents William and Marilyn.

Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

more harm than good to seek answers to such questions by finding her biological parents.

"I know nothing at all," Amanda said. "Occasionally it could be interesting, but I don't have any desire to search for them. I don't want to confuse anything, to try and dig up something that was never there to begin with."

On the positive end, Amanda said she is very happy with her adoptive parents, Perry and Donna.

"I definitely have great appreciation for my parents," Amanda said. "A lot of times I wonder what my life would be like now if they hadn't adopted me."

Carmen said she holds similar admiration for her adoptive parents, William and Marilyn.

"I know I don't always show it, but I am very grateful," Carmen remarked.

Kristen said that her adoptive parents, Tom and Marilyn, have always accepted her as if she were their biological daughter.

"I feel I fit in fine," Kristen commented. "I don't feel any different than anyone else. I never felt that way, even growing up."

Family unity has also been a big focus for the McCue family, which belongs to St. Mary's Church in Geneseo. Over the past six years, Mike and Sue McCue — who have no biological children — have adopted four children for whom they originally served as foster parents.

Charles McCue, 12, was adopted in 1993 — two years after his brother Will, 19, became Mike and Sue's first child. Charles recalls one night last fall when his parents asked how he and Will would feel if two girls were added to the McCue clan.

"We both thought it would be a good idea," Charles said. "I had never had a sister when I was younger, and Will never did either."

In January of this year, Mike and Sue adopted Tanya, 14, and Annie, 10. Tanya and Annie are biological sisters.

Charles said he was aware that the presence of Tanya and Annie would create more of a space crunch in his house, and that his parents would now have to divide their attention among more children. Regardless of these realities, Charles is thrilled that Tanya and Annie have become a part of his life.

"I will do anything to protect them in any way," he said. "If anybody tried to hurt them, they would have to answer to me."

Being in a large family has been a positive experience in many ways, Charles said.

"Now, I have other kids in the home I can talk to. It's quite the household," Charles remarked. "I am very happy. We do a lot of stuff together, a lot of church activities. We go to church together every Sunday. It seems like I've been here forever."

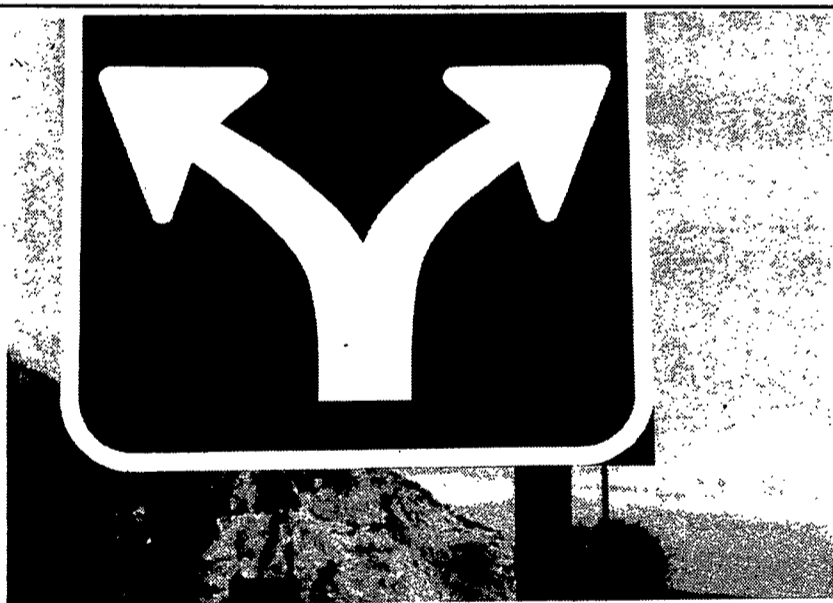
Charles also pointed out that his adoptive parents deserve considerable credit for nurturing such close bonds.

"That was a really, really big responsibility, to take us all in," Charles commented. "If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't be talking to you right now and I wouldn't be doing all the things I do."

The gratitude works both ways. Sue McCue noted that she feels every bit as close to her four adopted children as if they were her biological children.

"Part of it has been taking a risk, but overall it's really been a wonderful experience," Sue McCue said. "I really believe these children were brought to us in a special way by God, and that we were meant to be a family."

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