

on the MOVE

Tuning in, tuning

Story by Mike Latona • Photograph by Matthew Scott

You might think homilies involve little more than looking up the day's Scripture readings, jotting down a couple of thoughts, taking the pulpit and spouting off for a few minutes.

But Erin McAfee found there's a lot more behind stepping up to the microphone: Last fall, she wound up preparing several hours to deliver a homily that lasted a few minutes.

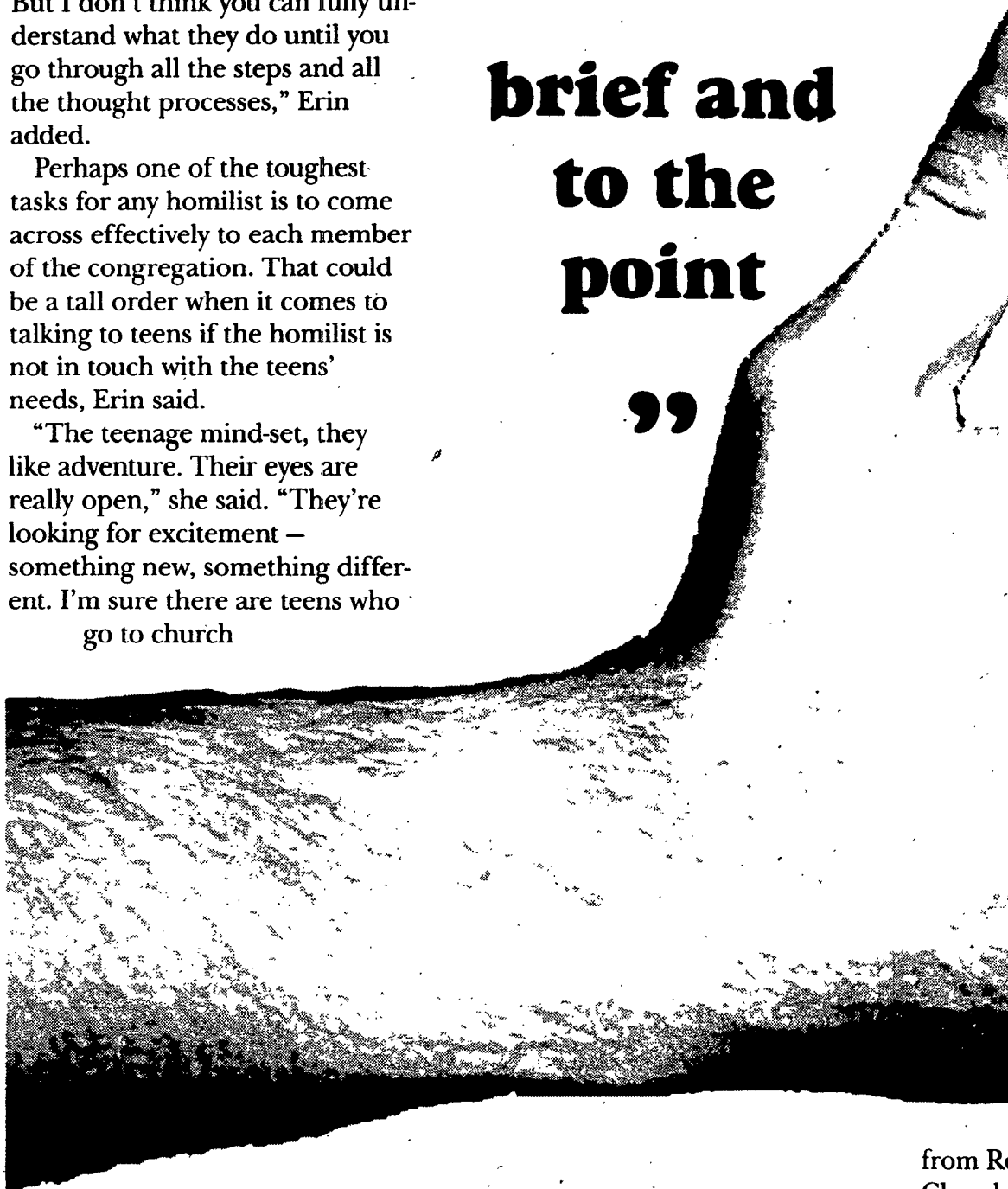
"It takes so much time. For three weeks, many times I would spend an hour a day. I'd always thought the priests put the homily together the night before, but I got a deep appreciation for what they actually do," said Erin, 18. She delivered her first sermon last December during a teen Mass at her parish, Irondequoit's Church of Christ the King.

"People say, 'Oh, they do it every week and this is their job.' But I don't think you can fully understand what they do until you go through all the steps and all the thought processes," Erin added.

Perhaps one of the toughest tasks for any homilist is to come across effectively to each member of the congregation. That could be a tall order when it comes to talking to teens if the homilist is not in touch with the teens' needs, Erin said.

"The teenage mind-set, they like adventure. Their eyes are really open," she said. "They're looking for excitement — something new, something different. I'm sure there are teens who go to church

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Upcoming Supplements

EDUCATION

Publication Date: August 14 - Deadline: July 31
The Rochester Diocese has made lifelong Christian education its top priority. Thus, as schools and students gear up for the first day of school, the Courier will make its annual study of trends, developments and issues in education — from kindergarten to the continuing education of adults, from Catholic schools to religious education programs.

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS

Publication Date: September 18 - Deadline: September 4
The Diocese of Rochester is home to numerous organizations for lay Catholics — from fraternal and service groups to spiritual and prayer leagues. This special section will provide an opportunity for such groups to inform Courier readers about their histories, purpose and membership opportunities.

TO LIFE

Publication Date: October 2 - Deadline: September 18
The Consistent Life Ethic, which promotes dignity of all human life from conception until natural death, is a key priority for the Diocese of Rochester. This special section, timed in conjunction with Respect Life Month, will deal with protecting and nurturing life through advocacy and direct action on such issues as abortion, militarism, capital punishment, euthanasia and aid to the poor.

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