CATHOLIC COURIER DIOCESE OF ROCHES

PAGE

You're never too young to get involved

t's pretty standard knowledge that vou must be at least 18 years old to vote in the United States.

However, Colin Murtha asserted, that is *not* the age to begin deepening one's knowledge of politics, or to get active on the political scene.

"There's no real age limit on how to contribute to politics," said Colin, 17, a parishioner from Perinton's St. John of Rochester Church and a senior at McQuaid Jesuit High School. For instance, students interviewed for this story have taken part in such activities as attending local government meetings; forming a teen chapter of a political party; and helping with a family member's election campaign.

Conor Hickey contended that any experience in political matters will help teens make more educated decisions by the time they turn 18.

"Soon enough they'll be able to vote. But it won't do any good if they have no idea what to use the vote for," said Conor, 13, from St. Louis Church in Pittsford. He is an eighth-grader at McQuaid Junior High.

Politics is a very popular subject right now in Conor's family: His mother, Nancy Smith, is campaigning to retain her seat as state Supreme Court justice, 7th Judicial District. Smith, a Republican, is opposed by Democratic candidate Melchor Castro.

Conor said he has assisted his mother by marching in parades, helping at campaign meetings and putting up posters around town in preparation for Election Day this coming Tuesday, Nov. 4.

"I just do what I can," he said. "I think it's really interesting."

Similarly, Jessica Evangelista has helped her father, Charles, by accompanying him door-to-door on weekends as he campaigns for reelection on the Ontario County Board of Supervisors. Evangelista, 'a Democrat, represents Wards 3 and 4 (Geneva area) on the board.

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That particular

race has touched off an intriguing set of circumstances at Geneva DeSales High School, where Jessica is a freshman. Her father is being challenged by Kenneth Campbell, a Republican.

Campbell also happens to be Jessica's homeroom teacher.

Jessica, 14, said that although she and Campbell have a friendly relationship, they prefer to steer clear from the subject of the election.

"I have priorities in school – to get good grades. I don't look at Mr. Campbell as an opponent of my father," said Jessica, a parishioner at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva.

Kathryn Friday and Brian Cass, who take Campbell's U.S. history class, emphasized that Campbell does not use class time as a forum for his political views. "He's really careful," said Kathryn, 17.

Even so, they said, Campbell's candidacy has served to heighten his students' general interest in politics.

"We hear about it more in school. Before, it was kind of distant. Now that I see it every day, it kind of brings it into light," Kathryn said.

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have begu "TARs" – plan to bec can Commi support the Colin said,







Through a special arrangement between Wayuga Press and the Catholic Courier Graphic's Department, you can now get quality, affordable typesetting and printing. *Give us a call for your next job!* COURIER GRAPHICS • 716-328-4340 WAYUGA PRESS • 315-754-6229 Jessica Evangelista, 14, walks with father Charles, a candidate for the Ontario County Board of Supervisors, while handing out campaign brochures door-todoor in Geneva Oct. 25.



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The Catholic Courier . . . because life isn't always black & white

"Without a doubt, it's all around us now. It's definitely in our face," Brian, 17, added. Both he and Kathryn are seniors at DeSales and parishioners at St. Stephen's Church. Brian has been assisting Campbell outside of school by posting flyers and putting

