

On the MOVE



Angel Hill, 17, a parishioner at St. Theodore's Church, Gates, singles out some of her favorite angel-oriented possessions.

Diocesan teens say that angels have assumed many identities in their lives — mother, friend, stranger. And for Maggie Leasure, such variations are quite legitimate. "Angels just come in whatever form you need them to," remarked Maggie, 14, a parishioner at St. Louis Church in Pittsford. Perhaps, in Angel Hill's case, they

even come by name. "I know I must have been named Angel for a reason," said the 17-year-old parishioner at St. Theodore's Church in Gates. "My name kind of serves as a conscience for me. It kind of gets overwhelming — an angel is a messenger of God, and it's a lot to live up to that name."

Angel noted that many people say they feel inspired simply upon meeting her and discovering what her first name is. "When I hear stuff like that, it just makes me happy. I can't ever remember not wanting to be named Angel," she said. "I think that my name helps people feel confident, helps people open up, helps them get to know me."

At home, Angel decorates her bedroom with a wide variety of angel gifts she has received. She also spends many hours reading books on angels. "I love reading angel stories," she said. She added that on a recent diocesan teen retreat, somebody she had just met "thought maybe I could be an angel." Yet Angel said she isn't so sure that she's the real deal.



"I do think it's possible. But do you think God would have an angel born into a family?" she remarked. "I don't think angels want to be seen."

It was a now-you-see-me, now-you-don't situation that led Tamra Jacobi to believe she encountered an angel during the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver. That week, throngs of young Catholics had come from all over the world to celebrate their faith with Pope John Paul II. But on one day, a friend of Tamra's became separated from their group for several minutes. "There were so many people. We had no idea what direction she had gone in, and we were starting to panic," recalled Tamra, 19, from Holy Cross Church in Rochester. "A man walked out of the crowd because he saw that we were very panicky. He said, 'Can I help you?' I just followed him, because this whole trip was based upon faith. Five or 10 minutes later, he came back with her." After a few seconds of relief and rejoicing, Tamra's group turned to thank the man — but he was already

Upcoming Supplements

RELIGIOUS VOCATIONS

Publication Date: Jan. 15

Deadline: Dec. 30

Pegged to coincide with National Vocations Awareness Week, this supplement will highlight the call to service in the Catholic Church of priests, men and women religious, and permanent deacons. We will meet some of these people, who will share the joys they experience in their ministries. We will also look at the challenges and opportunities they and the church face in the years ahead.

MARRIAGE

Publication Date: Jan. 29

Deadline: Jan. 13

(Bonus distribution at Marriage Preparation Programs)

The Catholic Church has been at the forefront of defending marriage as a sacrament and a vital part of society. This supplement will explore marriage preparation programs, offer tips on ways to strengthen marriages and look at the role faith can play in ensuring marital happiness and success.

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