

On the MOVE

Keeping the faith

Story by Mike Latona • Photo illustration by Greg Francis & Kim Parks

Did you ever stop to think how your faith life might be affected if nobody required you to attend Sunday Mass or other church functions anymore?

Collene Burns, for one, said this notion never dawned on her until she began attending Cornell University in Ithaca last fall. There, she said, it was up to her to find out where Mass was being held — and to make sure she didn't oversleep on Sunday mornings.

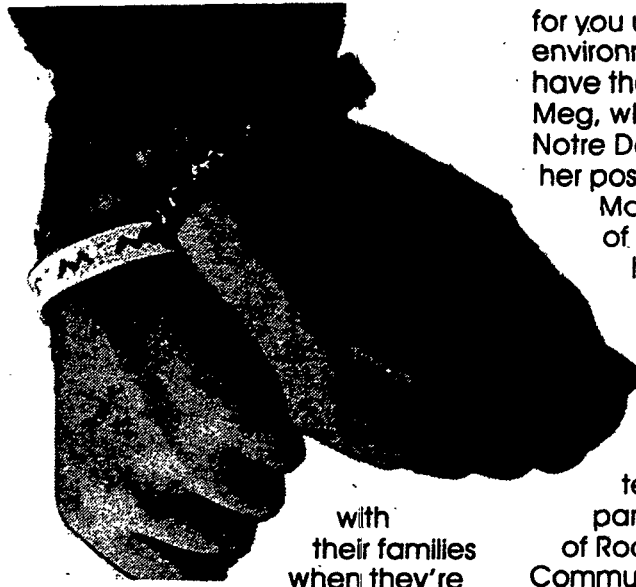
"To have to do it for myself for the first time — it's not something I thought about when I was getting ready to go away to school," she noted.

This reality, Collene said, challenged her to take a deeper ownership of her faith.

"My faith is no longer my parents' or godparents' responsibility. I guess it's solely my responsibility," said Collene, 18, a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Church in Irondequoit.

Meg Reynders said she became aware of the challenge to maintain one's faith through the experiences of her five older siblings, all of whom attended college. Not all of them, she said, made a smooth adjustment.

"A lot of people go to church



Collene Burns and Marc Webster, also pictured in photo at right, wear What Would Jesus Do wrist bracelets to remind them of their faith.

with their families when they're younger and it's not really an option. Now it will be like, 'Should I take the hour out for going to church?'"

said Meg, 17, a senior at Aquinas

Institute and parishioner at Rochester's Holy Cross Church.

"I guess you don't realize what your parents and your church do

for you until you're put in an environment when you don't have them anymore," added Meg, who lists the University of Notre Dame and Cornell among her possibilities for college.

Marc Webster, a close friend of Collene's, remarked that his Catholic upbringing was challenged almost from the time he arrived at Ithaca College.

"For me, going off to college was the ultimate test," said Marc, 18, a parishioner in the University of Rochester's Newman Community.

Marc recently completed his first semester at Ithaca. He said that dormitory life — and lack of parental control —

allows for quicker access to alcohol, drugs, sex and pornography.

"It's all there. It's all so much more prevalent when you're in that environment," he said.

Marc admitted that he has taken a drink from time to time, saying that he doesn't "put up a complete wall and isolate myself from these kinds of things."

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Share a Great Compassion



Sr. M. de Paul
Native of: Warmister, Pennsylvania

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Publication Date: Jan. 29

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

ARMCHAIR COLLEGE FAIR

Publication Date: Feb. 19

Deadline: Feb. 3

(Bonus distribution to high school juniors & seniors) It's never too early to begin planning ahead for college. This supplement will look at ways families can find and set aside the needed money, help students discover the colleges and programs that are right for them, and also explore the growing opportunities for people who delayed college, or want to stimulate and challenge their minds later in life.

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