

ON THE MOUNTAIN

Romance



You know the stereotype: Teenage girl finishes reading a romance novel, shuts her eyes and smiles. She lets out a wistful sigh.

Is this a fair and accurate image? Tabitha Cicora thinks so. "A lot of girls get taught that your prince is going to ride up on his white horse and take you away," said Tabitha, 17, a parishioner at Eastside Catholic Parish in Elmira.

Sarah Echter admitted that she occasionally takes this trip into dreamland herself.

"I sometimes pick up the bridal magazines at the store and look through the pages while I'm waiting in line. It must be that little fantasy part of me left over," said Sarah, 18, from Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward.

Yet Sarah and other diocesan teens have found that as they mature, the fantasies about and realities of marriage become more clearly separated.

"My parents, thank God, are happily married. But I have friends whose parents are divorced. When I was younger, I thought everybody's parents were happily married," Sarah said.

"We all want it to happen to us. But (marriage) takes a lot of work. You just can't sit and say, 'Everything is going to go OK,'" Tabitha added.

Tabitha said that she learned about some of the more challenging issues in marriages — planning a wedding; working out financial matters; having children — during a human development course she took at Elmira Southside High School last year. Tabitha is a junior at Southside.

Sarah was enlightened about similar matters during a portion of her theology class at Our Lady of Mercy High School last year. She recalled that students were asked "when we thought people started acting like adults, and had the ability to decide if marriage is the right step for you or not."

Although Sarah said she plans to get married and raise a family, that

and reality

step is unlikely to occur before she has completed college. She explained that she wouldn't feel able to devote adequate time to both marriage and school.

"I think it would be very difficult," said Sarah, a senior at Mercy.

Sarah observed that the more individual goals you achieve first, the more prepared you'll be to commit to another person.

Upcoming Supplements

ARMCHAIR COLLEGE FAIR

Publication Date: Feb. 19

(Bonus distribution to high school seniors & 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 necessary 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.

RETIREMENT

Publication Date: March 26

The "golden years" are a time of unique opportunities and challenges for seniors. This supplement will explore such issues as financial planning and money management, volunteering in church and community as a way of keeping active, traveling for pleasure and enrichment, and maintaining good health.

Each week the Catholic Courier is delivered to more than 50,000 homes throughout the 12-county Diocese of Rochester. When you advertise in the Courier, you will introduce your organization to more than 25,000 readers.

For information or to place your ad, call the advertising department at 360-3628 or 1-800-600-3628 outside the Rochester calling area.

The Catholic Courier . . .

because life isn't always black & white

Natural Family Planning

Building strong couples & strong families the natural way.



Register now for our next series of workshops beginning February 26

Call for information: 423-9490 x668

When only the best will do on her special day.

Jennel's

Fine Daytime Apparel & Eveningwear

3 Monroe Avenue • Pittsford Village
Parking in rear

385-2481

Mon. thru Fri. 10-6 • Saturday 10-5
Evenings by appointment

By C. Mercedes Ferreira