

ON THE MOVE

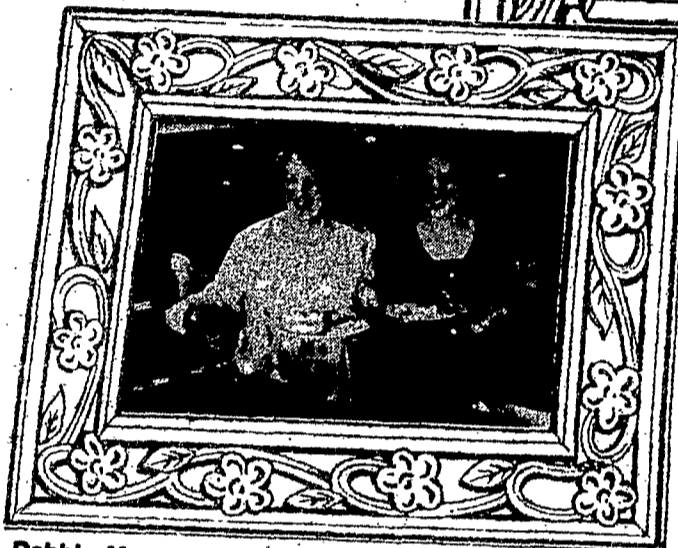
In honor of Moms

Story by Mike Latona

Photos by Greg Francis



Alexis Ehrmantraut left, chats with her mother, Holly, at Fairport Harbor House April 25.



Debbie Masco, left, and daughter Natalie sample buffet line.

Even though Natalie Mosco appreciates her mother's many loving and caring efforts, she admits she often takes them for granted.

"Unfortunately, yes. You don't even think about it. Whenever I want to go to the movies, I just expect a ride," said Natalie, 16, a parishioner at Guardian Angels Church in Henrietta.

So sometimes it takes a special moment or event for Natalie to focus on her relationship with her mom. And the Mother-Daughter Brunch, held annually by Nazareth Academy near Mother's Day, serves that purpose just perfectly.

"It's a great way to spend time with your mother because you really don't

have that much time around this time of year, with finals and all," Natalie said.

At last year's brunch, Natalie recalled, students were told to silently meditate while looking into the eyes of their moms, recalling the special times they'd shared.

"I told my mom, 'Mom, I love you.' I know that she knows that, but sometimes you forget to say it. We both got choked up," Natalie said. She and her mother, Debbie, have attended three Mother-Daughter Brunches, including one held April 25 at Fairport Harbor House.

The brunch is one of many ways that teens pay tribute to their moms in honor of Mother's Day. These efforts include such traditional activities as buying cards and flowers; serving breakfast in bed; and going out to a restaurant.

Then there are the more creative approaches. For instance, have you ever considered giving your mom a limousine ride on her big day? That's what Brian Zimmer decided to do for his mother, Christine, three years ago.

"My mom had been talking about taking a limo ride for a number of years. She would complain about how she had never taken a limo to her prom or anything," said Brian, 17, from Corpus Christi Church in Rochester.

So when Mother's Day rolled around, a limo pulled up to the Zimmer residence. Brian and his mother, father and brother then spent a good chunk of the day going around town in style.

"She was really excited about it. The whole day, she was smiling," Brian remarked.

And for a Mother's Day gift this year, Brian was planning to escort his mom this week to a production of "Stomp," a popular dance and percussion revue. As for his plans for Mother's Day itself (May 10, for those of you who haven't gotten to the florist or card shop yet), Brian said he will stick to tradition.

"I imagine it will be breakfast in bed, pampering her all day. No cleaning or cooking for her," said Brian, who attends Aquinas Institute.

Sometimes, Megan Johnson observed, Mother's Day can be made special simply by striving for quality time together on that day. She explained that because she

Day is a time when relaxing with her mom, Karen, is a rare treat.

"We just make sure we're around," said Megan, who has an older brother and younger sister. The Johnsons attend St. Pius V Church in Cohocton.

Natalie, also, tries to make simple gestures so that her mom can enjoy Mother's Day to the fullest. She said that she and her younger sister "try not to argue. We try to get along that day."

While these acts are commendable, Alexis Ehrmantraut remarked, Mother's Day shouldn't be the only time to be thoughtful toward your mom. Although Alexis plans to spoil her mother, Holly, with "a big breakfast, cards and flowers" on Mother's Day, she said she praises her mom throughout the year.

"I thank her as much as I can every day. My mother and I feel lucky that we have such a close relationship," said Alexis, 17, a parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece. She and her mom, also, attended the recent Nazareth Academy Mother-Daughter Brunch.

Alexis noted that many families don't easily express their love and appreciation of each other, but that she doesn't struggle in this area because "my parents have always been open with me."

Brian observed that teenaged boys may hesitate to express such sentiments, because "guys have to be all tough." And yet, he said he'd have no such problem when it comes to his mom.

"I love her, and I'd be glad to tell anybody," he stated.

Coming next week:
Hunger relief efforts



Sister Mary Ann Mayer, SSJ, has organized the Mother-Daughter Brunch for five years.

Graduation

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