

STORY BY
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PHOTOS BY GREG FRANCIS

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"I was so happy. I think I might have cried a little," said Bob Huss, when son Aaron was born in 1997.



Part of Eileen Meyers' chores at her parents' home is to keep the house clean, sometimes with the help of 19-month-old son Aaron Huss-Meyers. She lives there while waiting for Bob to graduate from college. They will then marry and move out on their own.

In August 1997, Eileen Meyers spoke at a Diocesan Youth Convention seminar on the topic of unexpected life changes for teens.

Eileen's visual aid, so to speak, was quite striking: She was cradling her 2½-monthold son, Aaron. She had become pregnant with him at age 18, about the same time she had begun college.

As a result, her life is now taking a much different route than she had envisioned.

"The choices you make in a minute can change the rest of your life. I wasn't ready, I wasn't prepared," Eileen, now 20, commented during a recent interview.

Eileen and her fiancee, Bob Huss, began dating shortly after their graduation from Spencerport High School in 1996. Their relationship soon became sexual, leaving Eileen with conflicting thoughts about their actions and her Catholic upbringing.

Eileen explained that she considers herself a loyal Catholic who attended Catholic grammar school and was actively involved in her parish youth group. While she did



Eileen brushes Aaron's teeth.

skirt Catholic teachings about premarital sex, she said her faith weighed into her decision not to use birth control.

"I had always been taught it was bad," said Eileen, a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport.

A month after Eileen began her freshman year at St. Bonaventure University, she went for a pregnancy test.

"I had thought I was just late with my period, that it was just stress from school. Two weeks went by, and I started to panic," she said.

When the pregnancy test came back positive, Eileen said, she experienced "every emotion in the book. At first I was really scared and upset. I felt I was disappointing

everyone, I guess."

Bob had a similar reaction when Eileen broke the news to him.

"Basically, I just freaked out. It was just a range of emotions and thoughts going through my head," remarked Bob, 20, who belongs to St. Theodore's Church in Gates.

Bob said his greatest fear was not the prospect of becoming a father, but "how my parents would react" to the news. They were initially upset, he noted.

Eileen added that her parents, also, were upset. "Their main thing was, I'm not going to have a normal life," she said.

She added that she and Bob considered abortion briefly – very briefly.

"I did think about what it would be like,



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