

# on the **MONEY**

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Tom Prairie, 19, closes his eyes during the 13th Station of the Cross, when Christ dies, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Auburn on April 14. Several teenage parishioners acted out the Passion during Lent at both St. Francis and St. Hyacinth churches in Auburn.

## Auburn youths bring Stations to life

**L**iving Stations — the practice of portraying Stations of the Cross through live presentations — can be hard on both the actor and audience.

The image of a Christ crowned with thorns being nailed to a cross is especially overwhelming, Tom Prairie acknowledged.

"We tried to show reality, what it should have been like. To actually see that, it hurts a lot of people," said Tom, who portrayed Jesus in two recent Living Stations presentations.

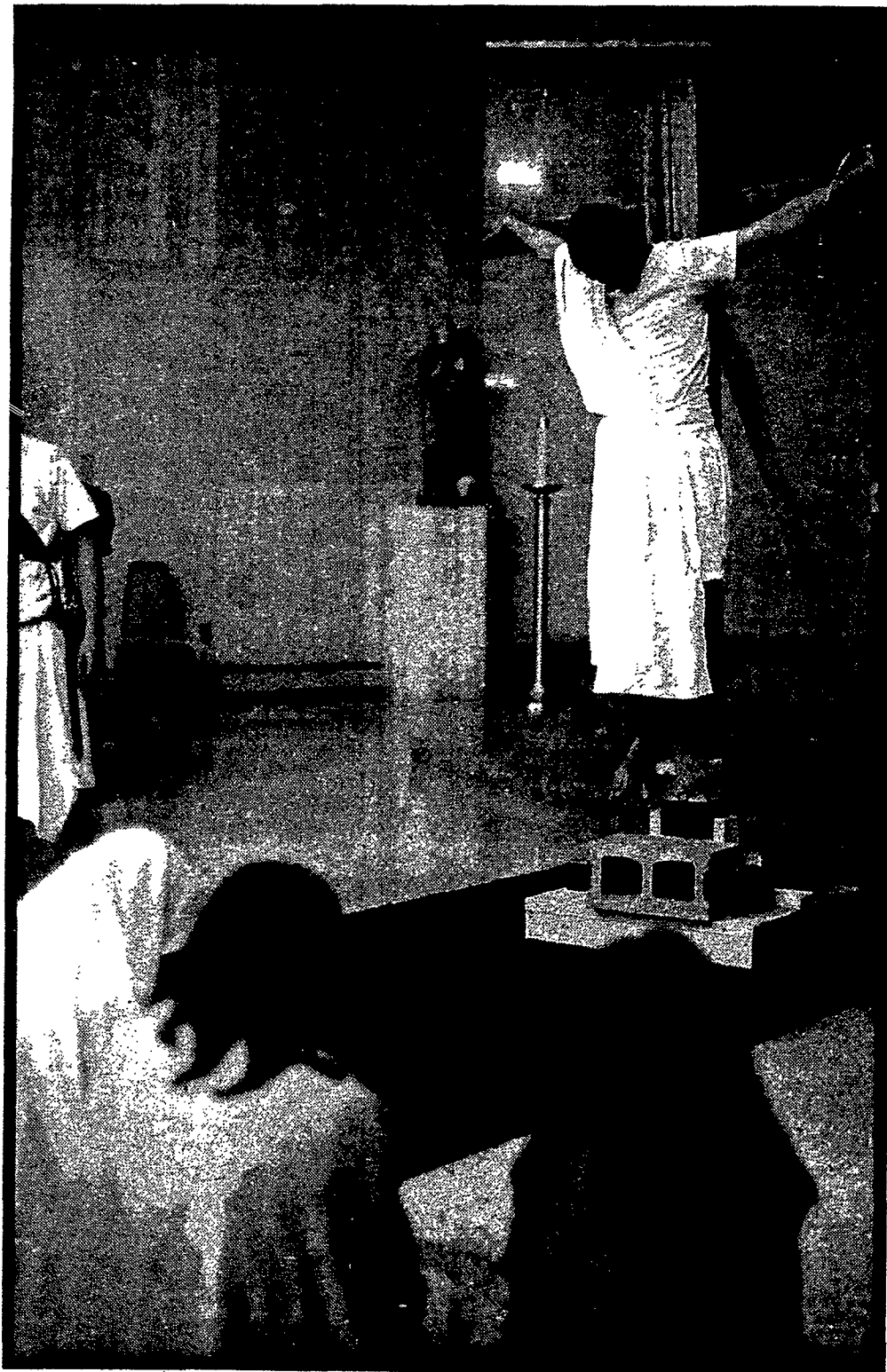
Tom's group depicted the Stations of the Cross at Auburn's St. Hyacinth Church on April 7, and again at St. Francis of Assisi Church on April 14. Tom noted that he wore a crown of real thorns for his portrayal of Jesus. Although thorns were snipped out in the area that would have lodged into his head, the other thorns stuck out dramatically.

"It was effective, and that was the point of it all," said David Napoli, a St. Hyacinth youth who directed both productions.

These portrayals marked a busy, and meaningful, Lenten season for youths throughout Auburn. In addition to the St. Hyacinth and St. Francis of Assisi Living Stations, youths from St. Alphonsus Church put on a Living Stations on April 14, and Holy Family Church will give a presentation on Good Friday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m.

This was the first year that St. Alphonsus youths have presented a Living Stations, said Steven Uhnak, pastoral music director and liturgy coordinator. The Living Stations involved 14 youths as actors and 14 as readers, while adult parishioners helped out by making costumes.

Uhnak noted that the youths, through acting out the Stations of the



Weeping women mourn the death of Jesus on the cross at St. Hyacinth Church in Auburn on April 7.