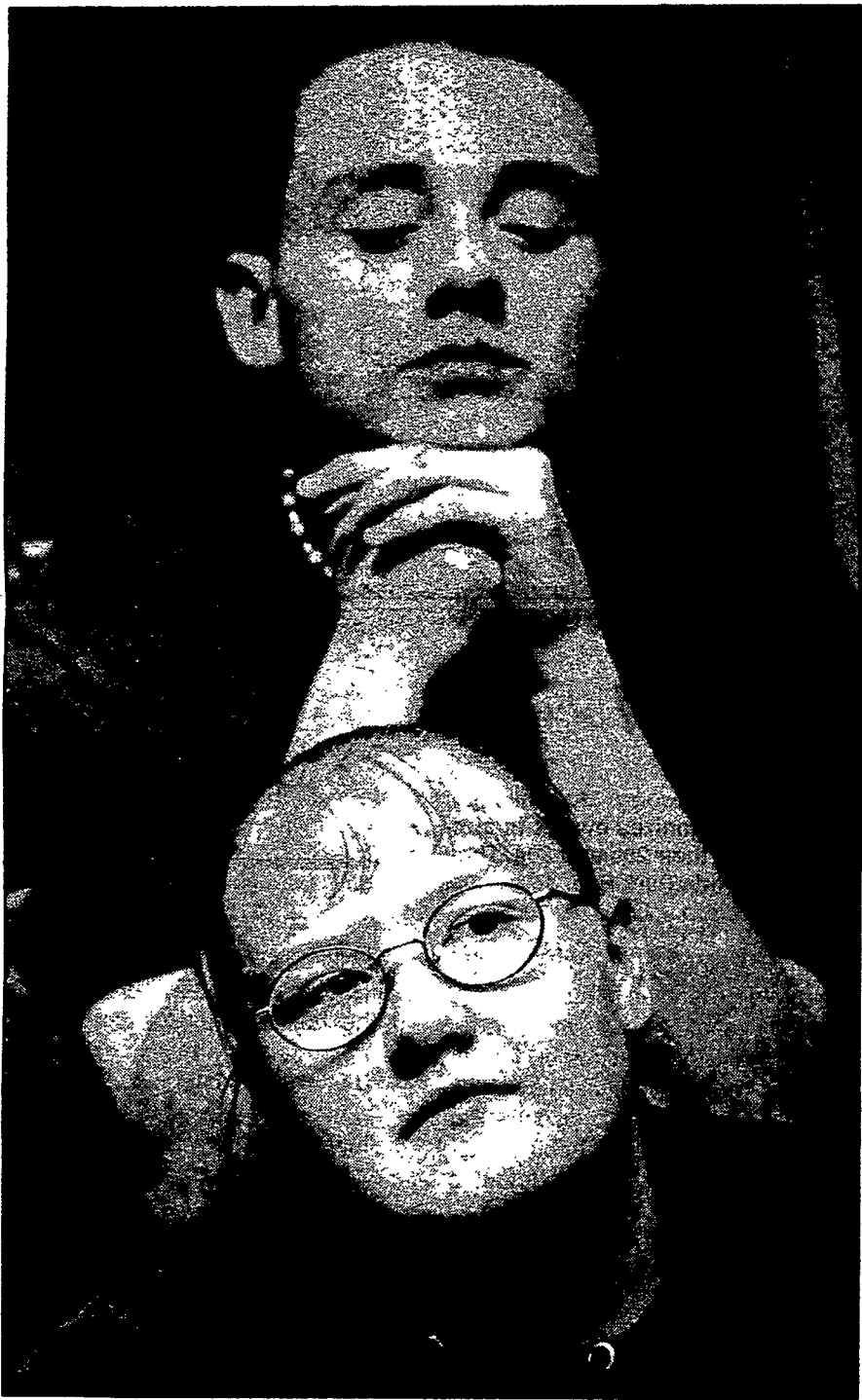




(From right, in front) Rebecca Tissot, 14, a parishioner at St. Bernard's, Scipio Center, Good Shepherd Catholic Community, Jennifer Tissot, 15, Rebecca's sister, and Kathleen Kanalley, 14, also of St. Bernard's, listen to a group discussion.



Josh Rogalski and Heather Sweeting, 15, a member of First United Methodist Church of Auburn, listen to a group discussion.

A celebration of love, faith at Auburn parish



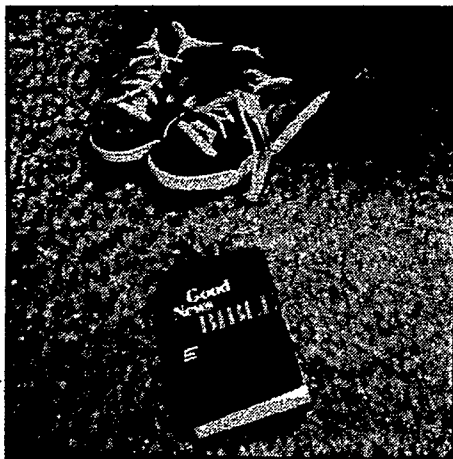
Attendees break into smaller groups to discuss love.



Josh Rogalski, 15, a parishioner at St. Hyacinth Church, Auburn, and Tricia Heffron (far left), 14, a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, share their thoughts and pray with others in the group.

St. Hyacinth Parish in Auburn hosted a "Saint Valentine's Ecumenical Retreat" for teens Feb. 16 and 17. In the spirit of the holiday, the retreat focused on love. David Napoli, 18, a St. Hyacinth parishioner, organized the event, which drew 33 participants and eight chaperones.

Activities included discussions, Bible scavenger hunts, live music and prayer. Well after midnight Friday, attendees camped out in St. Hyacinth classrooms, and activities resumed early Saturday. The purpose of the retreat was to produce an atmosphere of trust, friendship and openness.



TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DAVID WALLACE