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On the MOVE

We are a group of Catholic youth dedicated to God, helping the community and most of all having a good time.

Thus begins the mission statement of the youth group at Rochester's St. Andrew/St. Philip Neri parishes. By punching up www.catholic-church.org/staspyouth on the Internet, you can find the mission statement displayed below an image of the Virgin Mary meeting the angel Gabriel. Also available with a few computer clicks are a series of photographs, Scripture reflections and schedule of events for St. Andrew/St. Philip Neri's youths.

A growing number of diocesan youth groups are developing their own web pages to promote their activities and causes. Youth ministers, and the teens they serve, have pooled their technological talents to create lively electronic communication.

The youth-group web site for Our Mother of Sorrows in Greece (www.mosyg.org) is maintained by Greg Briggs, 18. He developed his skills through a club at Greece Arcadia High School, where he is a senior. Two years ago, with the encouragement of MOS' youth minister, Jan Borromei, Greg launched the site for

parish teens. It features a calendar of upcoming events as well as several photographs from his group's activities.

"It's got to be useful, and it's got to be interesting," Greg commented.

The web site for Irondequoit's Christ the King Parish (www.ctkyouthgroup.com) was initiated by a former youth-group member, Joe Pipitone, now 19, and has been running for about a year.

One of the site's big features is a "message board" that allows people to write in from all over. Paul Anastasi, parish youth coordinator, said the site has received messages from Europe and several parts of the United States.

Photos from past events prove a big draw; this section is the responsibility of Brian Schimpf, 17. According to Brian, he and his dad receive photos from Anastasi and scan them onto the web site from their home photo scanner.

"People really like to see what we're doing," said Brian, explaining that photos help convey the intensity of spiritual events for people who weren't there: "A lot of the retreats are really hard to put into words."

Christ the King also offers a prayer-request section. Anyone can fill out an online form for prayers, and may remain anonymous if they so choose, Brian noted. The intentions are read by Anastasi at Sunday youth-group meetings.

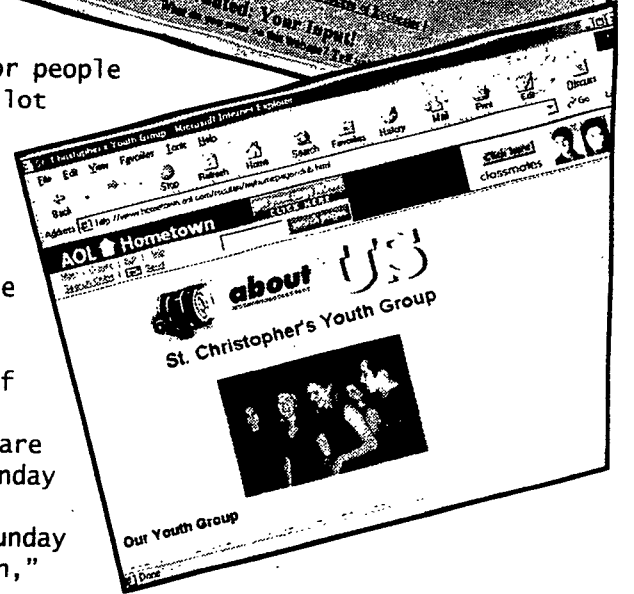
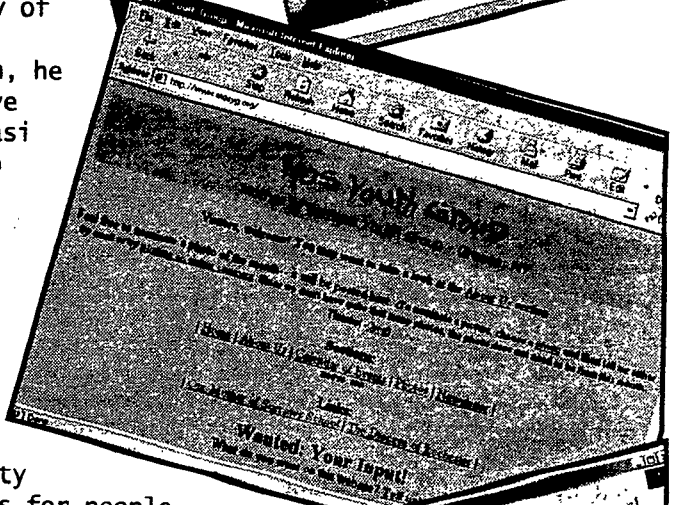
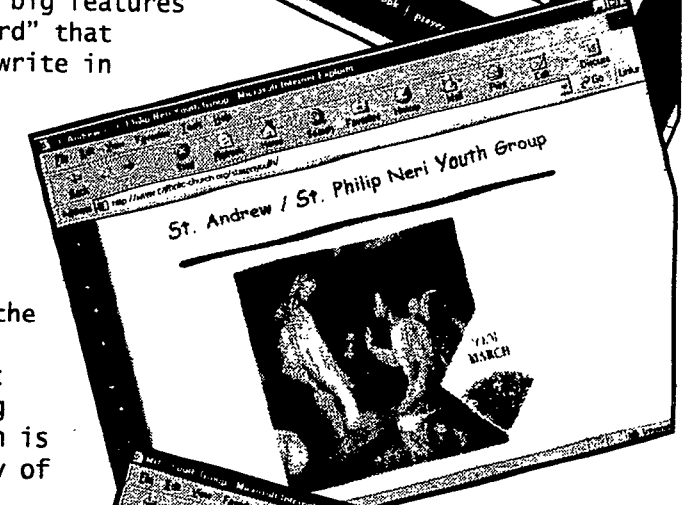
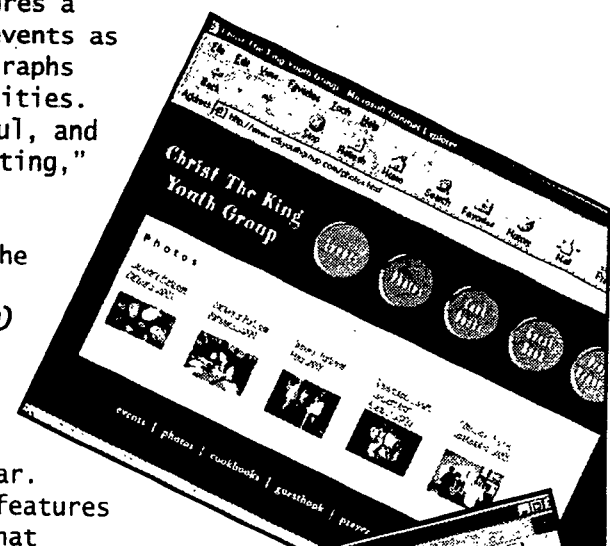
"Pretty much every Sunday there's a new intention," Brian said.

At St. Andrew/St. Philip Neri, a leading feature of its web page is an ongoing series of reflections on the Ten Commandments by youth minister Amy Dorscheid. In addition, the site offers many links to teen-related Catholic web sites. Dorscheid's daughter, Emily Hoyt - who designed and maintains the web site - feels that the more diversity, the better for group members.

"They all have different interests, and all have different needs," said Hoyt, 22. The site, launched in December, is read by both teens and adults, Hoyt noted.

"It's something for the parish, so they can see what the kids are doing," she remarked.

Meanwhile, at St. Christopher Parish in North Chili, youth minister Ron Scuteri started a youth-group web site last year. It just merged with the parish web



site (www.stchris.rochester.ny.us) this month. Once again, photos are the leading attraction.

"The kids want it to get bigger and bigger," Scuteri remarked, saying the youth group wishes to display pictures from local and national conferences they will attend this year.

Scuteri said he spreads awareness about the site by e-mailing its address to youth-group members. "All they have to do to enter the web site is click on the address," he said.

Because computers are second nature for today's younger generations, Scuteri remarked, it's imperative to communicate through web sites.

"You have to. It's really the coming thing," he said.


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