

PARENTING



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Celebrating Valentine's Day

Above, Kathy Moriarty laughs as her daughter, Jessica (right), and classmate Renee Halloran, both 8, put plastic spoons on their noses while waiting for ice cream during a Feb. 14 Valentine's Day party at Irondequoit's St. Margaret Mary School. At right, Pam Knauf (left) helps scoop ice cream for sundaes in Debbie Ritz's sixth-grade class, as the students pile their desserts high with whipped cream. Moriarty and Knauf were among several parents who helped out during Valentine's Day parties at the school.



Young man to promote chastity in Elmira

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Karen Kilpatrick of Elmira believes sending your children to Catholic school isn't enough to shield them from the lures and dangers of premarital sex. Parents, also, have to play awareness-raising roles, she said.

"In some cases parents don't know how to talk to (their teens). Or, they think the school will take care of that," Kilpatrick remarked.

Although her school emphasizes Catholic teaching that sex is a gift from God to married couples, Mercy Sister Mary Walter Hickey, principal at Elmira Notre Dame High School, agrees that this teaching must be reinforced at home. Parental involvement is especially necessary in a culture that sends a quite different message about sex while downplaying such consequences as teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, she said.



Jason Evert

"Parents really need to know what's going on out there. Right now, our society is really saturated with this idea of free sex," Sister Hickey said. "We want to help both our students and our parents realize the importance of being countercultural. They really have to be different than what they see on the TV or in the movies."

One young man who isn't afraid to be different is Jason Evert. A nationally recognized speaker on the subject of chastity, Evert was scheduled to give two presentations at Notre Dame Feb. 21. One was a talk during a daytime student assembly on the topic "What If We Really Love Each Other?" The other was a 7:30 p.m. lecture

for parents on "Raising Chaste Teens." That lecture is free and open to the public.

Evert's talks at Notre Dame were arranged by Kilpatrick and other members of the high school's parent association, with the approval of Sister Hickey. The 26-year-old Evert is a full-time apologist with the organization Catholic Answers, based in El Cajon, Calif., and has made numerous radio and television appearances. One of his written works is "Pure Love," a booklet that encourages young people to live chaste lives. He holds a master's degree in theology and counseling from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

ND student Teddy Kamas, 18, said he embraces Evert's ideals and has seen one of his videos. He also said that Evert's age should help add to the impact of his message, both to students and parents.

"Him being so young and everything, he will give parents an aspect of what it's like today as a youth and young adult — what kids believe, and what kids do in today's world," said Teddy, a senior who attends St. Mary's Parish in Elmira. "When a parent hears it from a young adult, it might hit home more than from another parent or a teacher. We're out there; we know what goes on."

Even though the guest speaker is not a parent himself, Kilpatrick feels that Evert can offer sound advice based on his knowledge of Catholic teachings. "You don't have to be a parent to talk about that," she said.

However, Teddy said, it does make a huge impact when parents are delivering these messages as well. Although Teddy is enthusiastic about Evert's upcoming talk, he said he especially values the fact that he's been able to discuss sex freely with his parents. "If I ever had questions about sex, I always felt comfortable talking to them," he said. "No matter what the question, they would always give me a logical answer."

"I've been brought up to believe sex is worth waiting for, and it's still my belief today," Teddy stated. "I'm totally about chastity."



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Family Events

☉ **SUN, FEB. 24** — Fun Family Flicks: "A Tribute to the Tramp", five short films featuring Charlie Chaplin, ages 5 and up, Dryden Theatre, George Eastman House, 900 East Ave., Rochester, 2 p.m., \$5 adults, \$2 children, \$8 families (one adult and up to four children); 585/271-3361, ext. 218.

☉ **SUN, FEB. 24** — Children's play: "Martha", story of a lonely woman whose life is touched by a playful goose; Arts Center, Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave., Rochester, 2 & 4 p.m., \$9; 585/389-2170.

☉ **MAR. 2, 3** — Tots weekend: "Tots in Toyland", crafts, performances, family activities; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester, Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m., \$6 adults, \$5 seniors and students with ID, \$5 children 2-17, under 2 free; 585/263-2701, ext. 314.

☉ **MAR. 5, 13** — Days for Tots: for preschoolers; Tues., March 5: "The Boomerang Club", interactive songs; Wed., March 13: "Bill Mehl's" sing along; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester, 9:30 a.m., \$6 adults, \$5 children, under 12 months free, advance ticket purchase recommended; 585/263-2701, ext. 314.

☉ **WED, MAR. 6** — Application deadline: learn to ice skate classes; Greater Canandaigua Civic Center, 250 N. Bloomfield Rd., Canandaigua; six week series begins March 9; Saturdays 10 a.m.-noon; \$80; 585/396-7230.

☉ **MARCH 9, 10** — Family fun: "Choo-Choo Express", train-related activities for whole family; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester, Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m., \$6 adults, \$5 seniors & students, \$5 children 2-17, under 2 free; 585/263-2700.

☉ **SUN, MAR. 10** — Celebration: Irish dance, presented by Young School of Irish Dance, auditorium and B gym, Honeoye Falls-Lima High School, 83 East Ave., Honeoye Falls, 2-4:30 p.m.; free admission; dancing, music, crafts, refreshments; 585/624-4924.

☉ **MON, APR. 15** — Registration deadline: for Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp; for boys and girls ages 10-19; Roberts Wesleyan College, 2301 Westside Dr., North Chili; for free brochure call 704/568-6801.

☉ **THRU APR. 23** — Exhibit: "Go Figure!"; for children ages 2-7 and adults to make connections between math and everyday life; bilingual; third floor, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$7 adults, \$6 college students & seniors, \$5 children 3-18, under 3 free; 585/271-4552, ext. 342 or www.rmsc.org.

☉ **THRU MAY 5** — Film: "Journey Into Amazing Caves"; Strassenburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave., Rochester, Fridays 4 p.m., Saturdays 10:30-11:30 a.m., 2, 4, 7, 8 p.m., Sundays 1, 2, 4 p.m., \$6 adults, \$5 college students with ID, \$4 children thru grade 12 & senior citizens; 585/271-4550.

☉ **ONGOING** — Exhibit: "ExploraZone"; 36 science & technology interactive exhibits; Park Hall, Hancock Gallery, 2nd floor, Wilcox Hall, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave., Rochester, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., \$7 adults, \$6 college students with ID, \$5 children thru grade 12 & senior citizens; 585/271-4552.