

Faith remains strong in couple's life

Dan Sullivan/CNS

ASHLAND, Wis. — Sean Duffy and wife Rachel Campos Duffy both have flirted with the bright lights of fame, but have remained grounded in their shared Catholic faith.

"Faith is a big part of our lives," Rachel Duffy said.

Sean, 32, who is originally from Hayward, in the Diocese of Superior, and Rachel, 32, who was raised in numerous locations as the daughter of a diplomat, are both cradle Catholics.

Each had a stint as a cast member of MTV's "The Real World." He is an alum of "The Real World: Boston" and she was on "The Real World: San Francisco." They met on the first MTV "Road Rules/Real World Challenge" and were married five years ago.

Rachel Duffy, who attended Catholic schools, said she grew up surrounded by faith and has managed to hang on to it throughout the years.

"It all started with my parents, who are very devout Catholics," she said in an interview with the *Catholic Herald*, newspaper of the Superior Diocese.



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Rachel and Sean Duffy are committed to passing the Catholic faith on to their children, Evita Pilar, 4, and Xavier, 2.

She said being a part of Life Teen helped shape her life during the impressionable teenage years.

"Faith created my social life," Rachel Duffy said, "I went to Catholic school activities and took part in a Catholic youth group." She

was an altar server as a youngster.

Although he didn't attend Catholic school growing up, faith was a part of the fabric of Sean Duffy's household, too.

"All of us kids and my parents went to church on Sunday," he said.

"We went to religion classes; the faith was an integral part of my upbringing." He, too, was an altar server as a youngster.

In college Rachel Duffy was active in the campus Newman Center at Arizona State University.

Sean Duffy admitted to straying away from the faith in his young-adult life. He said one thing he is happy about from his MTV experience is that he found someone like Rachel. She helped bring him back to his faith, he added.

The Duffys have two children, Evita Pilar, 4, and Xavier, 2. A third child was due in March.

As members of St. Anne Parish in Sanborn, the Duffys have helped start a youth group and youth discussion forum. With the monthly gatherings, young people are able to talk about faith issues with the Duffys and Father Jozef Barszcz, the pastor.

The couple said it's vital for teens to be supported, not just by each other and their pastor, but also by other young adults in the community.

"It's important to encourage them that they are on the right track and they are doing good," Rachel Duffy said.

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