



Above, Indiana University students gather after praying the Stations of the Cross at St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington. There are an estimated 8,000 Catholic students on the Bloomington campus.



Right, Elizabeth Flood, center, and her friends participate in a University of Notre Dame tradition: football. Flood graduated from Cathedral High School in 2008 and attends Notre Dame.

College Catholics

—students living Catholic faith on campus—

There are 4.5 million Catholic students attending post-secondary schools in the United States.

To help the Class of 2009 prepare for their journey into college, The Criterion interviewed Catholic sophomores and juniors in college to get their thoughts and advice about this transitional period.

In this special section, they offer helpful hints to make the freshman year safe and fun, and share personal stories of their faith. There is also advice to help parents adjust to their child's absence.

The first weeks of college are an anxious time for freshmen, but if they are properly prepared it will also be a time of excitement, fun and faith. †

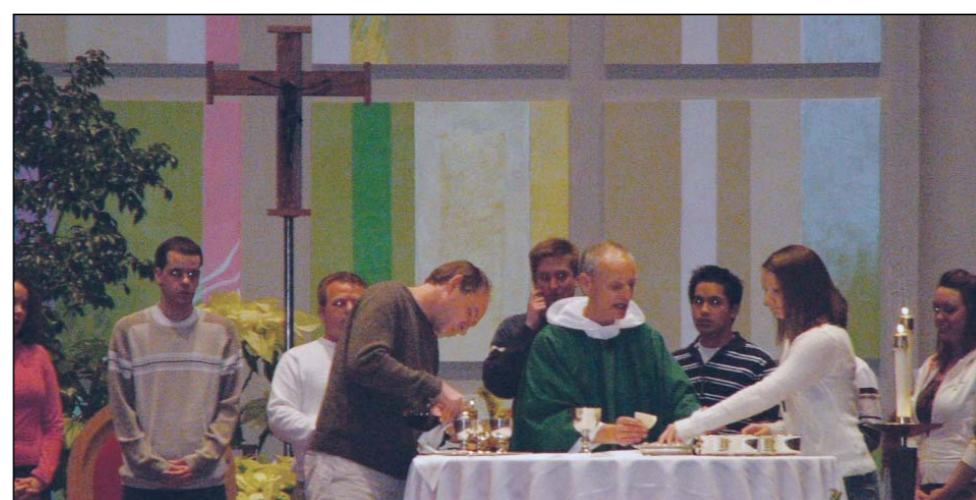
Laziness, poor time management hinder students from attending Mass

By Kamilla Benko

While Friday and Saturday nights at college are filled with partying and the latest music, Sunday nights are reserved for a different kind of celebration with its own

laughter and songs.

"The Masses are fun," said Elizabeth Flood, a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana. "I mean, the boys will be banging on the pews and it's just really lively."



Dominican Father Robert Keller celebrates Mass at St. Paul Catholic Center with students from Indiana University in Bloomington. Father Bob estimates that 2,000 students attend Mass at St. Paul Catholic Center each weekend.

At Notre Dame, students have the option to attend "Dorm Masses." On Sunday nights, the halls empty as students make the short walk down the hall to attend a Mass brimming with student participation.

"There was almost a positive peer pressure to go," said Flood, a 2008 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. "A few times, I would be at a review session on a Sunday evening and at

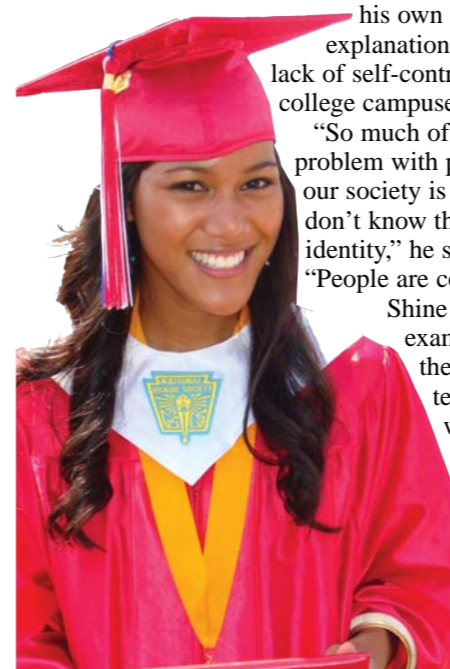
9:55 p.m. almost everyone would get up and leave. It was time for Mass."

While Notre Dame makes it easy for students to attend Mass, students at other universities sometimes find it more of a challenge.

"Freshman year, I went [to Mass] on Ash Wednesday and that was it," said Ball State University junior Jonathon Maple.

When asked why, he gave a crooked

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Kathryn Delacruz graduated from Roncalli High School in Indianapolis in 2008. She now attends IUPUI.

College freedom comes with moral choices and responsibilities

By Kamilla Benko

"College is one of the most selfish times of your life," said Danny Shine, a junior in college. "You wake up when you want to. You go to parties when you want to. You go to class when you want to."

At college, freshmen will probably experience more freedom than ever before. College students have full rein over their schedules, who they want to hang out with and what they want to do. And at college, there is plenty to do.

"People say you go to college to have 'fun' and you can do whatever you feel like doing," Shine said. "But it's kind of a thing. Like, 'What happens in college, stays in college.'"

Every college in America has its "party" side.

A survey conducted by the American Psychological Association found that four in five college students drink. Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education discovered that nearly half of all college freshmen who do drink spend more time drinking than they do studying.

"Religion influenced my decisions in the sense that I was very blessed to know who I was," said Shine, a 2007 graduate of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis.

"I didn't need those things—alcohol, sex, drugs—to create me," he said. "I was at college to learn more about myself, not to create myself."

Shine, who finished his freshman and sophomore years at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., offered his own

explanation for the lack of self-control on college campuses.

"So much of the problem with people in our society is that they don't know their identity," he said. "People are confused."

Shine gave an example of the media telling women they deserve respect one

moment, and in the next moment telling them to wear a short skirt.

"[The conflicting images are why] people don't have a sense of identity," he explained.

After watching some of her friends in sororities this past year, Ali Carson, who will be a sophomore at Purdue this fall, blames it on peer pressure.

"I could see where you could get into a sticky situation—a peer pressure kind of thing—where you ask, 'Well do I do this and keep my standing in the sorority or do I stand up to them and risk people looking at me like I'm weird?'" said Carson, a 2008 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

But though there are people who look for a wild time, there are still students who prefer to spend their time elsewhere.

Carson is a member of an agricultural sorority at Purdue. In her sorority, she said there are many people from small towns who

are shocked that people even drink.

"It makes it easier being with those people [because] even if they are not necessarily Catholic, they still have the same restrictions [as me] on things they want to do," Carson said.

"I think that my college experience was a little different from most people this year," said Kathleen LaMagna, who finished her freshman year studying theater at Indiana University in Bloomington.

LaMagna explained that she kept herself to certain standards that didn't include late hours or excessive partying.

"It's not that I think I'm above that," said LaMagna, a 2008 graduate of Carmel High School in Carmel, Ind. "It [just] wasn't particularly fun for me to be out all night. I didn't enjoy [going out] because I would not be doing any of the things [my friends] would be doing."

LaMagna said she still managed to have fun on the weekends without needing to attend every party.

At times though, LaMagna said she sometimes wished she could be one of those people who could just go with the flow. But she said something always held her back from joining in the college fun.

"It's just that I know at the end of my life I am going to have to answer to God," she said. "I don't want to look back at these times and have regrets about my behavior." †



College students sit outside Butler University in Indianapolis to attend "Mass on the Grass." Catholics at Butler University have no building to call their own, but Mass is offered most Sundays at 1:30 p.m. at the Johnson Room in Robertson Hall.



Father Richard Kaley presides at the Mass of the Holy Spirit at St. Joseph University Parish in Terre Haute. The Mass is for Indiana State University, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods and Ivy Tech students.



The St. Paul Collegiate Choir serves the community of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington at the 5:30 p.m. Sunday liturgy through their music ministry. The group of singers is primarily made up of students from Indiana University.

Seasoned students offer advice to incoming freshmen

Keep an open mind ...



"I think having an open mind is always important. But having an open mind is different from what you believe. It's a willingness to listen and trying to understand where others come from."

—Jonathon Maple, a 2007 graduate of Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg, now attending Ball State University in Muncie

... but set boundaries.



"Know your morals before you go into college. Because once you get into a situation in college, a lot of people are going to compromise your morals, and you just need to know what you believe."

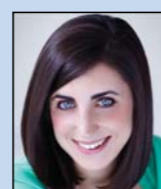
—Elizabeth Flood, a 2008 graduate of Cathedral High School in Indianapolis, now attending the University of Notre Dame in northern Indiana



"Don't be afraid to stand up for your faith. It may be hard to do so in college, being immersed in a new atmosphere and surrounded by different people ... but always remember where you came from and those values you have learned growing up."

—Kathryn Delacruz, a 2008 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, now attending Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis

Go to Mass.



"It's easiest to attend Mass if you go with a friend."

—Kathleen LaMagna, a 2008 graduate of Carmel High School in Carmel, Ind., now attending Boston Conservatory

"My dad gave me four pieces of advice before I left for college: Take the stairs, good things happen to good people, boys are creeps and go to Mass. If nothing else, go to Mass. I feel like if you go often enough, eventually it will click."

—Elizabeth Flood

Develop a routine.



"Study hard but don't forget to have a good time. Finding the balance is the key to an awesome college experience."

—Tim Bennett, a 2008 graduate of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis, now attending Xavier University in Cincinnati

"Establish a routine and habit. You have to be disciplined in college. That will set you up for the rest of your life. I think it allows you to live or, at least, it's a foundation for you to live a life to be proud of."

—Kathleen LaMagna

Stay focused.



"Don't be naïve. I underestimated college. I thought it would be so easy to continue going to church because I'd been doing it my whole life. And there are temptations not to study. Make sure you stay focused on school and why you are there."

—Ali Carson, a 2008 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, now attending Purdue University in West Lafayette

Stay connected.



"You need to find at least one other person that will support you. If you can't, you need to be calling home. You need a foundation where people will hold you responsible for your actions so that it's not just you fighting the battle on your own."

—Danny Shine, a 2007 graduate of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis, now attending Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland as a college seminarian for the Lafayette Diocese †

Parents, not just students, face changes

By Kamilla Benko

This fall, Mary Schaffner will see her fifth and youngest child off to Saint Mary's College in Notre Dame, Ind.

From her position as the program coordinator for young adult ministry in the archdiocese and as a mother, Schaffner offers some advice to parents whose children are heading off to college for the first time.

Step back ...

"You have to give your children their freedom. As a parent, you've done what you can, but ultimately they belong to God. Recognize that they are their own person."

... but be there for them.

"Ask your sons or daughters about what they are experiencing. At this point in their lives, you don't need to check up on them. Ask the questions because you are excited for their lives. ... Affirm your children in their goodness and uniqueness as a child of God."

Pray.

"The most important thing parents can do for their children as they head to college—pray for them!"

"One thing that is going to be [like] home for the kids is Mass. We are the universal Church. It's very comforting as a parent to know that we are all united in the Mass. We hear the same words and are called to spread the same Gospel each week, just in different places."

Stay connected.

"My husband e-mails our children every day about things—like sports—that connected them at home. E-mail them about the mundane things, the 'dinner table talk' that bonded you as a family."

Be compassionate.

"You need to be excited for the kids, but also have compassion for their transition. There is a lot of anxiety on the child's part. You want to recognize that the transition is going to be kind of rocky in the beginning, but things will settle into a pattern."

Be excited.

"My husband and I can't wait to have our own time. When we want to, we can just go away for the weekend, and I think that's helpful for the kids to see. While we miss our kids, we are excited to connect with other couples, our parish and doing things like that." †

The Catholic presence on campus

By Kamilla Benko

At Catholic universities like Marian and Notre Dame, it is easy to find Catholic students. But even at large secular universities like Purdue and Indiana, it's possible to find Catholic students. Near every large Indiana college is a Newman Center.

"The Newman Center is the Catholic voice and faith in a secular university," said Dominican Father Robert Keller, pastor of St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington. "We are doing the archbishop's ministry in the university."

The Newman Centers are places to form Catholic ministry, attend retreats, volunteer in the community and participate in discussions on the faith.

They are also a place for young Catholics to gather together.

In West Lafayette, Ali Carson, who will be a sophomore at Purdue University, said she found the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center to be extremely helpful in keeping in touch with the Catholic community.

"St. Tom's is really good in making its Masses in the evening and coordinating them with the students' schedules," she said. "There's always lots of stuff going on at St. Tom's, like ice cream socials and Mass outside."

To learn more about the Newman Center that is closest to your college, visit these Web sites:

Ball State University in Muncie *
St. Francis of Assisi University Parish
<http://www.stfrancisnewman.org>

Butler University in Indianapolis
Butler Campus Ministry
c/o Center for Faith and Vocation
<http://www.butler-catholic.org>

DePauw University in Greencastle
St. Paul the Apostle Parish
www.stpaul-greencastle.com

Earlham College in Richmond
St. Andrew Parish
www.richmondcatholiccommunity.com

Franklin College in Franklin
St. Rose of Lima Parish
www.saintrose.net

Hanover College in Madison
Prince of Peace Parish
www.popeace.org/joomla15/index.php

Indiana State University and Rose-Hulman Institute in Terre Haute
St. Joseph University Parish
www.rose-hulman.edu/Users/groups/StJoeCC/

Indiana University in Bloomington
St. Paul Catholic Center
www.hoosiercatholic.org

Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral
www.ssppc.org

Purdue University in West Lafayette *
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Center
www.sttoms-purdue.org

University of Indianapolis
Good Shepherd Parish
home.catholicweb.com/goodshepherdindy/index.cfm/about

(* Denotes Newman Centers outside the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.) †

Students search for answers

By Kamilla Benko

College is often a time when students search for the meaning of their lives and the answers to life's tough questions, said Father Rick Nagel, director of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry for the archdiocese.

They ask tough questions like, "Who am I? Why was I created? How will I make a difference?"

The answer to these questions is Jesus Christ, Father Nagel said.

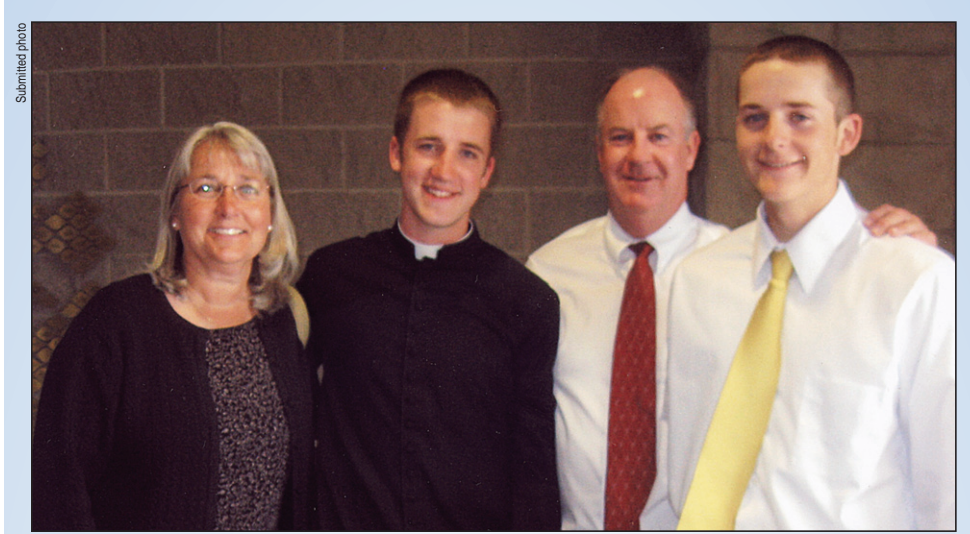
For many Catholics, college might also be the first time they are surrounded by people who do not share the same religion.

Dominican Father Robert Keller, pastor at St. Paul Catholic Center in Bloomington, encourages students to learn about other religions and, at the same time, teach others about the Catholic faith.

To help Catholic college students prepare for questions about their faith, Father Nagel recommends some books and Web sites about the Catholic religion.

Books
New Answers Catholic Bible
United States Catholic Catechism for Adults
Butler's Lives of the Saints
Rome Sweet Home by Scott Hahn
Back to Virtue by Peter Kreeft
Theology of the Body for Beginners by Christopher West

Web sites
www.vatican.va
www.usccb.org
www.archindy.org/youngadult
www.hearGodsCall.com
www.catholic.com †



Danny Shine, a graduate of Bishop Chatard High School in Indianapolis stands with his mother, Kate, father, Kevin, and younger brother, Will. Danny is attending Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland this fall.

Junior makes life-changing decision

By Kamilla Benko

Danny Shine has heard the same question many times over the last couple of months. Girls come up to him and ask, "Can you marry me?"

But they're not proposing to him.

It's the most common response from his female friends when Shine tells them he is entering the seminary, the first formal step to becoming a priest.

Whenever he tells them of his decision, the first thing the girls ask is if he will be the priest at their weddings. But the question always comes out a bit funny.

"I joke, 'Where were you six months ago?'" he said with a laugh.

Shine is a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Carmel, Ind., in the Lafayette Diocese.

He decided to enter the seminary after years—not months—of discernment.

He said the seeds of becoming a priest were planted during an eighth-grade retreat. Then-seminarian Christopher Shocklee, who is now a priest in the Lafayette Diocese, jokingly told him that one in every three men is called to be a priest.

Father Shocklee told him to think of his two best friends.

"Could either of them be a priest?"

Father Shocklee asked.

"I was like, 'No,'" said Shine. "Then [Father Shocklee] said, 'Well, I guess that leaves you!'"

Shine continued discernment while he attended Bishop Chatard High School in

Indianapolis. The 2007 graduate ran cross country and starred in the spring musical during his senior year.

He also joined the student group Students Encouraging Religious Vocations (SERV).

"Becoming involved with SERV helped me in speaking openly. It sort of made vocations something I could speak about without fear," he said.

But he was not ready to commit to seminary and enrolled as a history major at Purdue University in the fall of 2007.

"Freshman year, I continued [my] discernment, but I was more focused on adjusting to that new situation," he said.

"By Christmas break [of my] sophomore year, I was at a point where I needed to know [if I have a calling]," he said. "I don't know if God wants me to be a priest, but I'm next to certain that God wants me to go to seminary."

He will attend Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md.

Though most college students will not be entering a seminary, many will make decisions that will have a large impact on their futures.

Shine said that speaking with friends and praying helped him with his life-changing choice. He encourages people to pray for college students who are entering an exciting and influential time in their lives.

"We [as a community] need to be praying for college students," he said, "and we need to be living our lives to the best of our abilities so [students] see they don't have to compromise." †

Catholic collegians get introduced to new cultures and share own beliefs

By Kamilla Benko

When Kathleen LaMagna, 19, went college searching, she always wrapped up the campus tour with a final question:

"OK, where's the church?"

With this question, LaMagna was preparing to live a Catholic lifestyle in a place where Catholics are not the majority.

For many incoming Catholic freshmen, college will be the first time they interact with people of different cultures and beliefs. It may be the first time they meet a Muslim or speak with an atheist. It may be the first time in their lives that their religion is not practiced by the majority of the student body.

But as a 2008 graduate of Carmel High School in Carmel, Ind., LaMagna was prepared for being in the minority.

"I was comfortable enough from high school to be able to enter college knowing that I was still going to uphold a moral Catholic lifestyle," said LaMagna, who finished her freshman year at Indiana University in Bloomington.

She recalled one Ash Wednesday in middle school when she was called on during class by a substitute teacher to explain why there was a smudge on her forehead.

"Since I didn't go to a Catholic school, my parents would take [me and my siblings]

to 6:30 a.m. Mass on days of holy obligation [and other feast days]," LaMagna said.

For Ali Carson, it was a different story.

At Roncalli High School in Indianapolis, she was surrounded by other students with similar backgrounds, and attended school-wide Mass once a month and on holy days of obligation.

Going from Roncalli to Purdue University was a bit of a culture shock, she said.

"At a Catholic school, I was pretty much surrounded by people with the same beliefs and morals as me," she said. "And at Purdue, it's definitely not like that."

To help new students adhere to the Catholic lifestyle at college, LaMagna recommended finding a friend with a similar background at the university.

"I think it's really valuable to find someone you can talk with about [the Catholic faith]," she said. "It's so nice to not have to explain yourself to people who understand why you feel that way. There are no questions asked."

At college, many Catholic students will find that questions are being asked about their religion by non-Catholics. For some Catholic students, it will be the first time people ask them to describe their faith.

"I didn't realize how many people are—I don't want to say un-accepting—but just

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don't agree with my beliefs," Carson said. For her sophomore year, Carson will be rooming with three other students in a suite. One student is Catholic and the others are Lutheran.

"[My roommates and I] always find ourselves in discussions and we ask, 'Well, what do you think about this?' Sometimes [my Lutheran friends] will look at us like we're crazy," she said.

"But it doesn't really change what I think," she said. "It's just interesting to hear an outside view of the Catholic Church."

LaMagna said the best way to deal with the questions is to be confident in your faith.

"We're a society that is concerned with what's politically correct, and the religious teachings get washed away with that," she said. "I don't think people are confident in their faith, and that causes people to feel apologetic and guilty."

College is a time of huge transition, but it should not be a time to ignore your faith, LaMagna said.

"I think college is the perfect time for Catholic kids to really develop a different relationship with God than they have had in their past," she said. "It's the perfect opportunity to become close to the priests you meet and other people who share your interests." †

Faith helps family adjust to college life

By Kamilla Benko

While students unpack their bags and adjust to a new routine and vigorous academic schedule, families at home must grow accustomed to one less person at the dinner table.

"Our family dinners were a little more quiet with one less child in on the conversation of the day," said Terese Carson. Her eldest daughter, Ali, left for Purdue University to study pre-veterinary medicine in the fall of 2008.

"I missed seeing Ali's beautiful, smiling face every day, and sharing in her day and mine," said Terese Carson, a vice president at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

And while it's a hard adjustment for all families, for the Carson family it was especially poignant.

At the start of Ali's senior year of high school, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. When Ali left for college, her mother was still undergoing radiation and surgeries.

"It was hard leaving my mom, but I knew she was in good hands," Ali said.

It was also difficult for Ali to leave her sister and best friend, Katie, who will be a senior at Roncalli this fall, during that stressful time. But, Ali said, "I knew Katie could handle it."

Instead of getting mad at God for what was happening to her family, Ali said her faith grew. While Ali admits she did not attend Mass every single Sunday at college, she said Mass was a comfort because it was the same liturgy her family was attending at home.

Her mom also drew comfort from her faith.



From left, Roncalli High School senior Katie Carson, her mother, Terese, and older sister, Ali, relied on each other during Terese Carson's battle with breast cancer. Ali, a sophomore at Purdue University, said it was hard to leave her family, including her father, Steve, during that difficult time.

"My faith changed a lot during my illness," said Terese Carson. "I am much better at prayers of thanksgiving so I am sure to thank God every day for my health and my family. I just thanked him for helping get me through the next phase, whatever it was."

With all the changes in the Carson family, both Ali and her mother said technology was extremely helpful to stay in touch.

"We used video chat a lot so we could talk in the evening and still see each other," Terese Carson said.

Though technology helps, it doesn't make up for not being together.

"I would always look forward to the next time Ali would be home for the weekend," said her mother, whose cancer is now in remission. "There were even days when I just drove up to Purdue to take her to lunch and buy her groceries."

And that helped with the empty kitchen chair at home. †

MASS

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smile and said, "Laziness."

"Mass was on a Sunday and I could sleep in. [At college,] no one is telling me to go, and it just happens," said Maple, a 2007 graduate of Oldenburg Academy of the Immaculate Conception in Oldenburg.

Kathryn DelaCruz, who will be a sophomore at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, said she also found it hard to attend Mass every Sunday.

"I would just get so busy with school work and other extracurriculars that I would sometimes not go to church on Sunday," said DelaCruz, a 2008 graduate of Roncalli High School in Indianapolis.

"Time management would sometimes be challenging. So, because I got caught up with everything else, my faith would sometimes drop down a level or two on my priority list," she said.

But both Maple and DelaCruz acknowledge that prayer and attending Mass on Sundays are important.

"With school work and times where I may feel afraid, weak or like giving up," she said, "I pray to God and ask him for guidance and strength."

"My sophomore year," he said, "I made a Lenten commitment to attend Mass every Sunday. And I think that the discussions in church and the homilies do influence people [in their everyday life]."

Tim Bennett said he enjoys attending Mass at Xavier University in Cincinnati, where he will be a sophomore in the fall.

"Mass [at Xavier] was really comfortable," said Bennett, a 2008 graduate of Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School in Indianapolis.

"I enjoy singing. But when not many people start singing, I feel somewhat self-conscious. But at Xavier, when everybody is singing, you just let it rip," he said.

Celebrating Mass with other enthusiastic young adults helped Bennett learn about his religion.

"Church isn't supposed to be stiff and mandatory," he said. "One of the things I have learned in college—and this may sound goofy—is that God is your friend, and he's comfortable with everything."

Going to Mass at college also helped Tim realize his faith is his own.

"[At Xavier,] it wasn't like my parents were making me go to Mass," he said.

"I went on my own. And it was cool realizing that [practicing Catholicism] was actually something I wanted to do," Bennett said. †

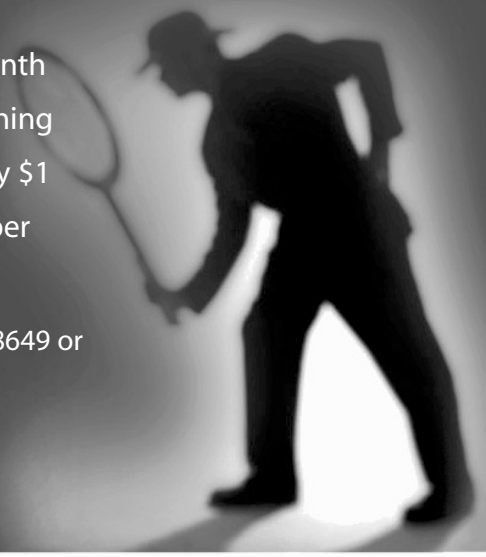
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