

OSV

In Focus

Class of 2008

Class ACTS

Catholic high school seniors share insights on education, service and their faith lives

In many parts of the country, school is back in session and seniors are experiencing their final year of high school homecoming games, formal dances and exams. Our Sunday Visitor wanted to know what was on the minds of Catholic seniors who must make many choices about their futures this year.

We would like to thank all of the students from around the country who answered our questions. Unfortunately, we did not have room to include every response in the print edition, but they can all be found at www.osv.com.

John Carry, 16

*St. Ambrose Academy
Verona, Wis.*

What would you text/e-mail Pope Benedict if you could?

No answer

Will you look at Catholic colleges to attend next year?

Yes, I will. Currently, I'm attending a Catholic high school, and the environment is uplifting and blessedly Catholic.

What issues are most important to you and other young people today?

I would say a major issue that seems to be troubling most teenagers is how to love and to be loved correctly. I remember a talk given by Jason Evert (national speaker on chastity) in which



he said that fundamentally all teenagers want to be loved, but most don't know how to love correctly.

How important to you is service to others?

Service to others is one way we grow in holiness, as good works are essential to salvation. As such, it is important that we help others, especially when we get nothing in return.

Have you been encouraged by anyone to consider a religious vocation?

Yes, I have, many times. Most priests I know well encourage me to consider a religious vocation, and my parents have urged me to keep it open as an

option ever since I can remember. Also included on this list are numerous friends as well as teachers and other Catholic adults I know.

What's your favorite website?

One of my favorites is www.jimmyakn.org, which is a Catholic apologetics blog.

What's your favorite prayer or devotion?

There are too many to choose from, but I would have to say the Rosary. We pray the Rosary together as a family every night, and it really strengthens the faith of us kids and helps us pray more effectively.

Who do you admire or look up to?

I admire my teachers as well as my parish priest, and of course, my parents.

Thomas Carey, 16

*St. Ambrose Academy
Verona, Wis.*

What would you text/e-mail Pope Benedict if you could?

I would thank him for being such an excellent leader for the Church. In a time when religion is being viewed with more and more apathy, it is wonderful to have such an example of charity and holiness.

Will you look at Catholic colleges to attend next year?

I will look into it. In addition to whatever I decide to major in I would love to take a class in theology or philosophy.

What issues are most important to you and other young people today?

While many accuse the Church of having an obsession over sex, I feel that it is especially important for young people to be instructed as to the Church's teaching on sex. It is also important because our culture so frequently misleads and lies to us about the nature of sex and love. The Church's teaching is a far more perfect view of sex and love.

How important to you is service to others?

One of the key teachings of Jesus was to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. And works are one of the things (along with faith) that get us into heaven. As such service is very important to me. For example, recently around 50 people and I went on a mission trip to build a house for the poor.

**Have you been encouraged by anyone to consider a religious vocation?**

Oh, yes. People I know are very supportive of considering the priesthood.

What's your favorite website?

I would have to say www.phatmass.com is a particular favorite of mine.

What's your favorite prayer or devotion?

I'm rather fond of the Rosary...our family tries to pray it every night and Our Lady especially requested that we pray it.

Who do you admire or look up to?

My father. He is hilariously funny and an excellent role model. He's also done a great job raising my five siblings and me, educating us in the faith and making sure we always get to Mass a s d c o n f e s s i o n .

