

Remsen students use *Globe* columnist to explore bioethics

By **RENEE WEBB**
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REMSEN – St. Mary's High School junior Aubra Galles told her classmates that a year ago she never would have thought the topic of ethical use of ventilators would have a direct impact on her life.

But an accident with her grandfather changed everything.

"He was on a ventilator for four months," she informed her classmates during her presentation on the ethical use of ventilators. The student also told the class about other health issues that arose for her grandfather as a result of being on a ventilator, the family's decision to take him off the device and church teachings related to that decision.

Bioethics articles

Galles was the student presenter for the morality class on April 2 at St. Mary's. A portion of the morality class is devoted to presentations relating to various bioethical topics featured in Father Tad Pacholezyk's newspaper columns, Making Sense out of Bioethics.

Mary Arens, theology teacher, explained that she got the idea to focus on these topics in these articles because they offer such important modern-day lessons. His articles have been regularly featured in The Catholic Globe for the last five years and are syndicated in various other papers throughout the country.

"Father Tad is so brilliant and he writes in a way that people can understand it," she said.

Father Pacholezyk, Ph.D., is a priest of the Diocese of Falls River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

"Diocesan curriculum requires a class on morality and I think we need to include bioethics in it because of all the issues today," said Arens.

She pointed out that discussion of these topics is all the more important in this day when moral and ethical questions rise out of advancements in technology and bioethics. Bioethics is a field of study concerned with ethics and philosophical implications of certain biological and medical procedures, technologies and treatments.

The teacher stressed the importance of the students learning clear answers based on church teachings. To start off this segment, Arens presented two of the topics – clear ethical thinking and the tyranny of relativism.

"I wanted them to get the connection with relativism and why it is such an issue with morality today." She added, "We can't just teach them what is wrong or right, we have to teach them the reason behind it. Then it will click and they can live by it."

Bre Haefs, a junior, said through Father Tad's articles they have been challenged to learn what the church teaches on various current-day topics and the difference between what society believes.



Remsen St. Mary's junior Aubra Galles teaches the class about the ethical use of ventilators during morality class. Various topics written about in the column Making Sense out of Bioethics are researched by the students. (Globe photos by Renee Webb)



Denerick Haefs, a junior at St. Mary School in Remsen, Iowa, reads an article about ventilators that was written by Father Tad Pacholezyk.

Student teachers

One of the big benefits of the class is that each student becomes a teacher of sorts for the day – at least in that class.

"That hands-on approach to learning is invaluable for the students and they enjoy it, too," Arens said. "You can tell they put a lot of energy into what they are doing."

Through researching the topic and teaching it, she said they learn the subjects better and it instills church teachings even deeper within them.

Here are just a few topics of the subject matter of Father Tad's: organ donation, euthanasia, stem-cell research, terminal illness, vaccinating for sexually transmitted diseases and the pill. The students get to choose the topic.

While Father Tad's articles provide not only a starting place but centerpiece, students must explain why they chose the subject and give an explanation in their own words. In addition, they must cite associated teachings on the subject from the Catechism of the Catholic Church as well as provide a video from YouTube or

other visuals that relate to the topic.

Mitchell Ruba, a junior, used the software Air Play to connect iPad for a wireless presentation about business professionals who refused to cooperate in evil. He was able to use a video from the National Catholic Bioethics Center for his presentation.

"The use of technology made the presentation easier," he noted.

During her presentation on ventilators, Galles used a YouTube video on Christopher Reeve as well as a young girl who had lived successfully on a ventilator for years.

To encourage discussion, students are to present four or five open-ended class discussion questions as part of their presentations.

As the topic draws to a close, students summarize why their topic is or is not within compliance of ethical boundaries regarding the primary care of human beings and how that relates to church teachings.

Keaton Bohnenkamp opted to present on the topic of loving people with disabilities. He chose the topic because his grandfather has Alzheimer's and he said they love him just as much now.

"Hearing the opinions of others on the topic, helps you further understand what you are talking about," noted Denerick Haefs, a junior, who presented on the topic of the effects of same-sex parenting. "At first it was a little hard to get started, but then it just starts to flow."

Shelby Schroeder, a junior, said the presentations have provided a wonderful learning experience.

"As they (other students) teach you about a subject, it makes you think of all the things that could happen," she said. Another benefit, Schroeder added, is the variety of subject matter.

After each presentation, every student must write a paper that includes a summary of the subject and relevant church teaching.

Volunteers win free fuel

ST. PAUL, MINN. – Nine Siouxland residents recently received a special thank you for their contributions to the community, volunteering with the Meals on Wheels program.

Terry Christensen of Hinton, Iowa and John Graser of Sioux City, both parishioners at St. Michael Church, Sioux City and Doug Anderson of Sioux City, a member of Immaculate Conception Church, Sioux City, were among those selected to receive free fuel from Tanks of Thanks, a program that rewards people who do good deeds to help make their community just a little bit better.

The Tanks of Thanks program from CHS and Cenex retailers encourages people to nominate friends, family and neighbors for free fuel as a way to say thank you for doing good in the community. Each month, CHS and Cenex give away more than \$5,000 in free fuel through the Tanks of Thanks program.

To make a nomination, visit TanksofThanks.com and briefly describe why someone deserves a Tank of Thanks.

Schools compete in CYO track meet

STORM LAKE – Bishop Heelan High School of Sioux City won the annual CYO track meet held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake on April 1.

In the boys meet, Heelan totaled 216 team points. Fort Dodge St. Edmond took second with 130, followed by Bishop Garrigan of Algona with 120, Gehlen Catholic of Le Mars with 80, Kuemper Catholic of Carroll with 63, Remsen St. Mary with 29, and Storm Lake St. Mary with 25.

Heelan scored 217 points in the girls meet. Bishop Garrigan was the runner up with 127 points, followed by Kuemper with 85, St. Edmond with 83, Gehlen with 71, Storm Lake St. Mary with 46, and Remsen St. Mary with 27.

Five CYO Coach of the Year awards were also presented. Recipients were Dick Tighe of St. Edmond for football, Mike Szalat of St. Edmond for cross country, Mary Miller of Heelan for volleyball, Darren Koolstra of Heelan for girls basketball, and Mike Langel of Gehlen for boys basketball.



The Saints

Fidelis of Sigmaringen

1577 - 1622
feast - April 24

Born in Sigmaringen, Germany, Mark Roy studied philosophy and law at the University of Freiburg in Breisgau. After tutoring young aristocrats and traveling Europe with them, he began practicing law in Alsace, where he quickly became "the poor person's lawyer." But, disillusioned over other lawyers' behavior, he gave up the law to follow a vocation in religious life. As an ordained Capuchin named Fidelis, he was renowned for his holiness, preaching and leadership. He was superior at several houses before being invited to eastern Switzerland to call Protestants back to Catholicism. This mission, complicated by the politics of the time and hatred of the Catholic Habsburgs, became increasingly dangerous and led to his murder by opponents. He was canonized in 1746.



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