

# VO FATHER

**Q** What determines modesty? If it's my body, why can't I dress how I want?

**A** Great questions. Part of my answer may challenge what it is we really "want," so stay tuned and be sure to read all the way to the end!

I'll begin by saying that modesty, quoting the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, is that which "protects the intimate center of the person." That of course sounds nice, but what does it really mean?

Well, first of all, it means that modesty involves more than just how we dress. It involves how we present ourselves, how we speak, how we act.

Modesty involves comporting oneself and expressing oneself in such a way that those who encounter us will naturally and easily be able to see each of us for who we are as whole, integrated persons.

What this means is that we all need to dress in ways that

communicate to those around us that we are not just a body and not just a physical object that has one use, but rather a whole person — body and soul — made in God's image and likeness. We all have inherent dignity.

The way we present ourselves needs not just to communicate something about our physical selves. We should be communicating something more than that.

***We should be expressing the beauty and awesomeness of our God-given dignity as men and women.***

When it comes to clothing, fashion trends can sometimes make this difficult. It is often popular to wear less and reveal more.

But do these revealing trends help reveal the beauty of the human person and "protect the intimate center of the person"? No.

Revealing more of the human body in a provocative way actually distracts us from the beauty of the whole

Continued on page 15



## Dating violence a problem for youth

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, according to material from the [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) website.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that nearly 1.5 million high school students nation-wide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a single year.

### Why focus on young people?

- Girls and young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rate of dating violence, almost triple the national average.

- Among female victims of violence, 94 percent of those age 16-19 and 70 percent of those age 20-24 were victimized by someone they were currently dating or formerly dated.

- Violent behavior often begins between the ages of 12 and 18.

- The severity of dating violence is often greater in cases where the pattern of abuse was established in adolescence.

### Don't forget about college students

- Nearly half (43 percent) of dating college women report experiencing violent and abusive dating behaviors.

- College students are not equipped to deal with dating abuse — 57 percent say it is difficult to identify and 58 percent say they don't know how to help someone who's experiencing it.

- One in three (36 percent) dating college students — male and female — has given a dating partner their computer, email or social network passwords and these students are more likely to experience digital dating abuse.

- One in six (16 percent) college women has been sexually abused in a dating relationship.

Source: [www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)

# YOUNG OBSERVER



(Observer photo, screen grabs/Sharon Boehlefeld)



## The Edge staff works in multimedia

Yssa Sto. Domingo (above), a reporter for *The Edge* at St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin, pulls an old assignment off the paper's planning board. Different colored sticky notes identify the section of the paper an assignment will appear in. Press passes also hang on the board. In addition to their print edition, the staff also maintains a website (left, top) and a Twitter page (left, bottom). They update their social media between print editions. Excerpts from their next edition appear on page 9.

## VOCATION CORNER

# Embracing God's plan with faith

**G**od has a plan for all of us, and His plan *always* yields lasting fruit beyond anything that we could ever imagine.

I have a friend, Anna, who knew that God was calling her to be a teacher, and everyone who knew her said that she was going to be a great teacher and that this clearly was what she was created for. Teaching was part of her vocation for sure!

However, before she got into the physical classroom, she was diagnosed with cancer and this took her down an unforeseen path, at only 22 years of age. That path, some would conclude, halted her from fulfilling her calling to teach.

She however, knew that every person who would hear her story would be able to learn a lesson that would resonate into eternity for those who cared to pay attention and to ultimately ace the test.

Some might turn away from God in the midst of unanswered questions such as: "Why me?" But Anna didn't dwell on these

questions. but rather clung to the answer that she knew: "God is with me!"

She bravely continued forward *with faith* turning closer to God and in doing so becoming stronger where it truly counted at the same time as her body grew weaker.

***Fulfilling her vocation to teach, she proclaimed at the end "I'm not scared, I'm ready."***

This was the greatest lesson that she could ever teach, and it is clear that God's grace sustained her and made it possible for her to have such confidence.

She is now with the Lord, and so many who have heard her story have had their faith restored, proving that she fulfilled her mission!

If you want to hear more of her inspiring story (including what I interpret to be an incredible "sign" from God days after her passing!) go to [rockvoc.org](http://rockvoc.org) and click on the link there to hear a homily that I preached on her life.

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations, [kromke@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:kromke@rockforddiocese.org).

### The Edge staff

**Advisor**  
AnnMarie Wojciechowski  
[awojciechowski@stedhs.org](mailto:awojciechowski@stedhs.org)

**Co Editors-in-Chief**  
Cecilia Kochanek  
[Ckochanek17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Ckochanek17@greenwave335.org)

Kyle Brown  
[Kbrown17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Kbrown17@greenwave335.org)

**Reporters**  
Isabel Belcher  
[Ibelcher17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Ibelcher17@greenwave335.org)  
Haley Biggins  
[Hbiggins17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Hbiggins17@greenwave335.org)

Anna Skog  
[Askog17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Askog17@greenwave335.org)  
Charlie Canning  
[Ccanning17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Ccanning17@greenwave335.org)

Josh Yuen  
[Jyuen17@greenwave335.org](mailto:Jyuen17@greenwave335.org)  
Meghan Driskell  
[Mdriskell18@greenwave335.org](mailto:Mdriskell18@greenwave335.org)  
Phillip Welch  
[Pwelch18@greenwave335.org](mailto:Pwelch18@greenwave335.org)

Yssa Sto. Domingo  
[Astodomingo18@greenwave335.org](mailto:Astodomingo18@greenwave335.org)  
Madalynn Duffy  
[Mduffy19@greenwave335.org](mailto:Mduffy19@greenwave335.org)

**Win a \$1,000 scholarship to go with that diploma**



**High school seniors have until March 17, 2017, to apply for NINA's annual scholarship for future journalists.**

Learn more at <https://ninaonlinedotorg.wordpress.com/high-school-scholarships/>



# The Edge

www.stedwardedge.com

The St. Edward Central Catholic High School Newspaper



feed your  
faith

february is catholic press month



@st\_edward\_edge

FEBRUARY 2017



The Edge photo/Jim Harkins

St. Edward students at the 2017 March for Life in Washington, D.C., stop for a photo.

## Marching for life

Three members of *The Edge* staff, Isabel Belcher, Haley Biggins and Madalynn Duffy, detail their experience covering this inspiring pro-life movement.

"I thought it was very beautiful and very overwhelming. I was not expecting it to be so emotional and powerful. I'm tearing up just thinking about it," St. Edward sophomore Katie Ellsworth reflected on her recent trip to Washington, D.C. The experience for our group was life-changing.

Led by peer ministry director Jim Harkins, about 70 students from St. Edward left on Jan. 24 for the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Matthew DeBlock, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena in West Dundee, and a group of students from St. Catherine also joined the St. Edward group.

Throughout the trip, we saw many historical places and

events but the most moving part for many students was what we came for, the march.

Before we departed for D.C., we attended a send-off Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church. This Mass was to prepare us for the challenge of standing up for what we believe in despite opposition from those who may disagree with our views.

One of the most incredible moments of the trip was attending the National Prayer Vigil for Life with over 15,000 students from around the country, who were all united in supporting the unborn. A few hundred priests and deacons and at least 30 bishops were also in attendance, where Cardinal Timothy Dolan, the chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was the principal celebrant.

The march started at 1 p.m., but before we even started

walking there were groups of people chanting, praying, and preaching.

Father DeBlock commented, "I found the March to be a peaceful and prayerful experience. It was both positive and reassuring to be surrounded by so many fellow believers who were willing to make the journey to Washington, D.C. to stand up for life. This year, we felt a particular 'positive energy' and that what we were doing was making a difference."

Being with thousands of people marching for the same cause was a very moving experience.

Upon returning, several students have already begun outreach to their peers in the hopes to attract even more students for next year's event.

"After hearing about the experience, I can't wait to go next year," said sophomore Henry Herrero.

These stories are excerpts from the February edition of *The Edge* from St. Edward Central Catholic High School in Elgin. The staff prepared and submitted the stories and photos to demonstrate their part in the Catholic high school press in the Rockford Diocese. Look for these stories in their entirety, along with others, at [www.stedwardedge.com](http://www.stedwardedge.com). See more about *The Edge* staff on page 8.



Marge Masters playing the marimba in 1939, at age 14.



Marge Masters' grandchildren, Anna and Bill Skog, with the marimba at St. Edward High School.

## Marimba through the generations

St. Edward recently received a generous gift from the family of Marge Masters, who was an involved member of St. Peter Parish in Geneva and grandmother of Anna ('17) and Bill Skog ('19), who are students at St. Edward.

The marimba is a unique percussion instrument and will provide St. Edward students with the opportunity to try something new.

When Masters passed away in October, her family decided that the antique marimba would be right at home in St. Edward's

music department.

"She always thought music was an important part of learning and life, and would have absolutely loved to see her instrument passed on to St. Edward," said the Skog family.

Masters owned the instrument for around 75 years and played it during her middle school and early high school years. She had fond memories of the marimba and used to reminisce about playing it in the band at St. Christopher Catholic school in Harvey, Illinois, during the 1930s.

Choir and band students, Mark Chammany and Alec Uscila, tried to play the marimba and said, "It seems hard to play but was easier than it looks and has a deep, full sound to it and sounds really awesome."

*"She always thought music was an important part of learning and life ..."*



The Lady Wave, coaches and supporters display their regional plaque.

## Lady Wave looking to make history

*Edge* staffer and varsity girls basketball co-captain, junior Yssa Sto. Domingo was tired for good reason last Friday morning. She spent the evening celebrating the first regional title for St. Edward girls basketball since the 2010-11 season. They claimed the

regional title, Feb. 9, after a 30 point slaughter of Guerin Prep High School, at the Gator's gym.

"Our mindset is, 'No mercy.' We have to have confidence without being cocky. We are prepared to take on any team and we hope the celebration

continues all the way to ISU (where the IHSA Class 2A State Finals will be played)," said Sto. Domingo.

Their record is currently 24-5. The team also brought home St. Edward's first girls basketball conference title in 30 years.