

The Soul of Seton

By Barbara Gargiulo

Volume 16
August 6, 2006

Stephanie Drury

Mark Norris



Editor's Note:

Actually living the values of one's mission is tough even for Churches! The Catholic Community of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton works constantly at being more and more faithful to the mission of Jesus Christ. Formation in the faith is one of our values. Your gift of treasure, time and talent allows this community to pass on our values to each generation. Please spend time in prayer this



month for the needs of all of our young people as it is a time of great transition and great opportunity for them. The Soul of Seton features two of our young souls who exemplify the great qualities of so many of our Seton Youth. They are a tribute to not only their families but to our whole community.

When God called Jeremiah to be a prophet, Jeremiah tried to excuse himself by playing the “youth” card. “Ah Lord God! I am too young.” (Jeremiah 1:6) But God would have none of it. “Say not, ‘I am too young.’ I am with you to deliver you.” (Jeremiah 1:7-8) We learn from the life of Jeremiah that God does have a plan and a call for young people and God gives them what they need to do whatever He asks.

Stephanie Drury

Stephanie Drury wears a t-shirt with the capital CREW written on the front. She wears a silver ring, another reminder of her commitment to Christ. Inside the ring the following is inscribed: Romans 12:2. This verse from Saint Paul is Stephanie's favorite Scripture, one she uses to guide and form her tireless work with the youth of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton community. *“Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

Stephanie Drury is a lifelong member of the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton.

She is a currently senior at the University of Texas at Dallas and will graduate in December. She is double majoring in Psychology and Child Learning and Development. Stephanie entered the university with Advanced Placement credits from Plano Senior High School, placing her at the top of her undergraduate class. She has worked in the psychology research labs investigating the parent-

child relationships of adolescents and the decision making processes of preschoolers. Stephanie has also been a part of the Catholic Club at UTD. She will begin pursuing her counseling license in the spring and is currently applying to area graduate schools, namely the University of North Texas and Texas Women's University. This summer Stephanie had an internship with the DFW Semiconductor Executive Council where she coordinated professional development programs for local educators seeking to stay up-to-date on modern technological advances and ways to encourage students to obtain higher degrees in math and science.

In addition to this busy schedule at her university, Stephanie volunteers at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton several times a week. She started as a first grader in the Children's Choir. She later became an altar server. When she was a ninth grader, she began volunteering in religious education classes. Most recently she has worked with the middle school and high school youth of the parish. Stephanie has taught faith formation classes, led high school Bible Study, worked with RCIA, and prepared tenth

graders for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Crew is the post-confirmation experience offered to Seton youth; Stephanie will help lead this organization in the coming year.

Stephanie will soon earn her Youth Ministry Certificate, provided through a two-year program at the National Center for Ministry Development. This is a nationally recognized program; Stephanie did her work for this certificate at the University of Dallas, Irving.

Stephanie recently went as an adult leader to Thibodaux, Louisiana for FISH Camp, a diocesan mission trip aimed at serving those affected by the hurricanes last season. The group stayed at a local parish while they painted houses and did work in a new Habitat for Humanity development.

Stephanie Drury is a generous life-giving force in the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. She speaks lovingly of her family. Her brother is soon to enter Texas A & M University and her sister will be a freshman at Vines High School. She calls the youth of Seton “my kids.” May Stephanie Drury and her “kids” succeed in their quest “to discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect”.

Mark Norris

Mark Norris is someone who at a young age gives energy and soul to the community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Mark is a life-long member of Saint Elizabeth. As a youth he became an active part of the Mass as an altar server. He was a regular at Sunday liturgies as well as Triduum and special celebrations. Mark earned the rank of Master Server and served through his high school years until he left for college. He said growing up in Seton gave him a strong faith and base in life that continues to guide him.

Now Mark is preparing for his junior year at Southern Methodist University. He entered SMU after graduating from Plano East. During high school Mark was a serious student (advanced placement courses were part of his curriculum), worked on the school newspaper learning the skills

of news gathering, page layout and meeting serious deadlines. During middle school the tuba became Mark’s musical instrument of choice. He took private lessons and was part of the Plano East band. The interest in journalism and band continue into Mark’s college career. At SMU Mark is a dual major—journalism and political science. Mark is currently serving as managing editor of the *Daily Campus*, the SMU school newspaper which is published four times each week. By the end of his junior year he will be editor in chief—the first junior to serve in this role in recent history. Among the events Mark covered were the immigration march which occurred in Dallas early this spring and the Katrina evacuees who arrived in the city after their homes were destroyed.

Mark is the section leader of tubas with the SMU band and will do some traveling with the group during the upcoming season of the football team. (One of the trips will be to Tulane University in New Orleans where the team will be the first to play in the renovated Superdome.) While at school Mark also serves on the executive board of his fraternity Sigma Phi Epsilon. Mark is vice president in charge of (surprise!) communications; he will live in the fraternity house when school starts in the fall. Mark is working two jobs to help with the expense of his college education. He has an internship with Dallas Cowboys TV and is spending his summer learning production and editing skills. Mark is also in his third year working the front desk at the Courtyard Marriott hotel in Legacy Park. He says the job allows him to interact with all kinds of people and fits well with someone who is interested in journalism.

Mark speaks very fondly of his family, his mother Gloria and his late father Gary and his brother Adam. About his brother, Adam, who is a year younger Mark says, “We are very different. He’s the math guy; I’m more liberal arts.”

Yes, Mark does have time to sleep—he says. The community of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton is given life by the young, energetic, optimistic soul of Mark Norris. May he be sustained by the words of God to Jeremiah, “To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear.” (Jeremiah 1:7-8)