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## Living Our Faith

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### Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"Recently I was at the Hands of Christ award ceremony, which is an award for current high school seniors who display leadership qualities within their catholic communities. At this ceremony, fourteen of the youth from Holy Trinity in Webster, where I am currently youth minister, along with hundreds of other seniors within the Diocese of Rochester, were honored for their service and leadership. During the ceremony, the celebrating priest asked how many of those seniors knew what he or she wanted to do with his or her life. A small amount knew exactly what he or she would do. Then, the priest posed the question to the rest of the congregation—parents and friends, those over 18—how many of us now are doing something different than what we thought we would do in high school? Of course I raised my hand. In high school, I wasn't even catholic, yet. (I converted while in college). And, I wanted to be a veterinarian. Clearly a lot changed for me since high school; and not to get too sentimental or sound "mushy," the reason is my studies at St. John Fisher College—where I found an academic thirst and hunger for religious studies."

## **Living Our Faith**

By Jodi Rowland

Recently I was at the Hands of Christ award ceremony, which is an award for current high school seniors who display leadership qualities within their catholic communities. At this ceremony, fourteen of the youth from Holy Trinity in Webster, where I am currently youth minister, along with hundreds of other seniors within the Diocese of Rochester, were honored for their service and leadership. During the ceremony, the celebrating priest asked how many of those seniors knew what he or she wanted to do with his or her life. A small amount knew exactly what he or she would do. Then, the priest posed the question to the rest of the congregation—parents and friends, those over 18—how many of us now are doing something different than what we thought we would do in high school? Of course I raised my hand. In high school, I wasn't even catholic, yet. (I converted while in college). And, I wanted to be a veterinarian. Clearly a lot changed for me since high school; and not to get too sentimental or sound “mushy,” the reason is my studies at St. John Fisher College—where I found an academic thirst and hunger for religious studies.

As a youth minister, I have the privilege of working a job that is centered around my faith. Every day that I come to work, I come knowing that I am not just doing a job; I'm living my faith. Putting aside the fact that I work for a church, I know it is possible for me to live out my faith while working at another job. For example, if I do decide to become a veterinarian, or further pursue my love for creative writing, I could live out my faith through both. As a veterinarian, I would be helping animals and the families that own these animals. As a writer, I could express my faith and love for God, which in turn could inspire others. The same is true for others in the world who are currently living out

their faith through their careers. A nurse helps the sick and wounded. A lawyer can choose clients and cases based on morals. And so on. . . .

To sum up what I'm trying to say is that it truly does not matter what career a person chooses to go into. What matters is the way that person does his or her job. For me, I am blessed with working with wonderful people, being surrounded by exuberant and exciting youth; and most of all, putting my education in religious studies and life to use—not just for me, but for all those I have the pleasure of coming in contact with. As a youth minister, I have the ability to continue growing as a person, intellectually, spiritually, and communally. Even though my career path went in a completely different direction than what I thought it would be, I am glad that I am here and that I have the knowledge and strength and courage to continue down this career/life path.