



RANDY BORST/Staff photographer

Mercy High's Mercyaires choral group sang at the funeral of fellow student Kristina Marie Fracchia Monday morning.

Student eulogized as a 'lively spirit'

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FROM THE time Tina's casket first entered the church to the time the hearse drove away, students sniffled, sobbed and hugged each other in solace. Pain, tears and shattered emotions marked the moment.

Belczak asked Tina's godparents to cover her coffin with a white cloth.

Mercy High students Julie Camardella, Anne Tommelein, Eileen Goode and Natalie Surowy delivered readings. Cousin Heather Scott sang a song, in tribute, called "Friends."

"There's about 30 of Tina's closest friends out there and three or four of her closest, closest friends who knew what Tina was like."

"I want to read it to you. I personally don't know all of you," she said. "There's about 30 of Tina's closest friends out there and three or four of her closest, closest friends who knew what Tina was like."

"I want to read it to you — for all of you girls who tried to tell Tina, who tried to make Tina listen to you, who tried to tell Tina what she was doing was harmful to herself. But she couldn't listen to you because she was a free spirit girl, we all know that."

THE VERSE on the card spoke of love, difficulty in choosing the right path, living a full potential and making personal decisions that make sense at the time.

Before the 30-minute service, Sister Regina Doelker, Mercy principal, said a crisis intervention team had been assembled for students who wanted counseling. The team consists of faculty experienced in grief counseling.

that read: "Old hankies. There are no more tears."

"You've heard of Precious Moments, this girl was filled with them. There will be no more tears for her, the tears are for us," said Belczak, who called Fracchia a participant.

"Sometimes a person like Tina, in 17 years, can live a lifetime," Belczak said.

EVEN THE kind of after-school job Fracchia held at the Toss-A-Party store in Farmington Hills evoked her fun-loving spirit.

"She only worked here a month but her mother told me she loved her job and spoke of it often," said Charles Bauman, store manager, in a separate interview.

"She was a warm person, reliable and great with customers. She always cared about everybody else. Her friends would come first. She was a good leader."

He added that many Mercy High students work part time at Toss-A-Party.

Fracchia was especially close to her younger brother, Tony. "Her last words to her mom and possibly her very last words were: 'Tell Tony I love him,'" Belczak said.

Belczak found symbolism in the timing of Tina's death at the onset of Holy Week, a solemn period observed by Christians during the week before Easter.

Threatening phone calls

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March 12. Her mother reported her missing to Farmington Hills police late March 16.

Orchard Lake Police Chief David King said based on interviews with family and friends, Bonelli became an immediate suspect.

Police declined to give details on the way Fracchia died.

Bonelli is a former North Farmington High junior currently attending the Farmington Training Center.

The Farmington Public Schools-run special education center houses emotionally impaired, physically handicapped and developmentally disabled students.

Jan Richards, special education director, said she could not discuss an individual student's case history.

BONELLI LIVES in Farmington Hills with an aunt and uncle. A former student in Windsor, where his mother lived, Bonelli came to North Farmington in September 1987.

Students help family cope

By Susan Buck staff writer

When he was thinking about sending his daughter, Kristina, to Mercy High School about three years ago, Robert Fracchia asked a friend what he thought of the idea.

"He said, 'Robert, just do it, you'll never regret it.' No truer words were ever spoken as far as I'm concerned," Fracchia said in eulogizing his 17-year-old daughter during a memorial service for students and faculty at the all-girls Catholic school in Farmington Hills Tuesday afternoon.

Police say Kristina Marie Fracchia, called Tina by her family and friends, was murdered by drowning last week.

"It's a big tragedy," Fracchia said. "For the support I got from Mercy High School, I'll never forget. There's about five or six of you little sweethearts out there who were at my house the last two, three nights, I guess you're my daughter now."

"Everybody's done whatever they could to make it easier, if you can make it easier," he added.

"If ever you need a father or can't talk to one, or any of those girls

out there who don't have a father and need to talk to one, I'll be around. God bless you and thank you very much," said Fracchia, former co-owner of the Roman Terrace and McFroek's Saloon in Farmington Hills and current owner of Doc Froek's restaurant in West Bloomfield.

HUNDREDS OF Mercy students filled the school auditorium in an emotion-filled service that caused some students to dissolve into tears. "This is so sad," said one student to her friend as she walked into the auditorium. "I don't want to do this."

Tina's mother, Sandra, and younger brother, Tony, were also in attendance.

At one point, Fracchia's mother and brother left the stage where they were seated to go into the audience to comfort and embrace Tina's friends, who had broken into sobs. Sandra Fracchia remembered her daughter by reading a birthday card Tina gave to her on her birthday in December.

"I want to read it to you. I personally don't know all of you," she said. "There's about 30 of Tina's closest friends out there and three or four of her closest, closest friends who knew what Tina was like."

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