

## CHAT ROOM



Bev Cornell

### At peace with the joys and wonder of winter nature

The new fallen snow is such a delight to behold. It's early morning.

Bristol and I are first to walk on the pretty snow covering on our trail by the creek. We are making new tracks in the snow. My crutches make such pretty scallops in the snow. The pleasure of thinking about people seeing my mystery scallops in the snow. Pleased with myself in making such different tracks. Maybe my tracks will make someone smile and enjoy the moment. Problems that are consuming their mind are put aside in order to solve my mystery tracks.

Isn't nature wonderful and exciting? To be living in the city of Farmington Hills and enjoying nature. How lucky I am.

Over the trees and creeks come a long soft low call from the wind onto my face. What a glorious fresh feeling.

Many variety of birds flying overhead. Their chirping songs bring serenity to my soul. These birds are so happy being free. A bright red Cardinal flys overhead to land on a snow covered pine bough. My heart beats the rhythm of the wind and the wings. I am at peace.

Open all your senses to our earth. Enjoy your place on this earth and the simplicity of nature. We each have a unique place on earth. Relish your place. Our earth offers us so much. It's up to us to find these offerings and open our hearts to them.

Bev Cornell lives in Farmington Hills.



Speaker: Molly Kelly, mother of eight kids, brought her message of abstinence to a young audience at Our Lady of Sorrows last week.



## Crusading for teen chastity

Jason Behm, a self-employed house-painter from Farmington Hills, wasted no words.

"Every kid his age needs to learn about this subject," the 25-year-old said in explaining why he brought 13-year-old brother Jeff to hear the Chastity Lady.

Jason, Jeff and some relatives were among about 100 - many of them teenagers and their parents - at Our Lady of Sorrows Church Feb. 24 to hear Molly Kelly, the 60-something Philadelphia grandmother who's become internationally known for telling teens to just say "no" to premarital sex.

"All younger kids," said big brother Jason, "need to know it is OK to wait until marriage to have sex."

And little brother Jeff, a student at Hilbert Junior High in Redford, agreed that premarital sexual intimacy "is a big concern" for today's young.

In fact, Jeff said, he'd like to hear more speakers like Kelly on that topic. Her mixture of common-sense quips and puns relaxes teens, he said, making a difficult emotional subject easier to understand.

"She was excellent," agreed Patrick Duggan, a senior at Detroit Country Day, also noting that casual sex is overrated.

Kelly said today's society "tempts, teases and titillates" teenagers "with a bombardment of sex ads" selling everything from condoms to clothing to books, television, music and movies.

The aim of the "safe sex" movement, said the Chastity Lady, "is to teach kids how to do it and not get caught."

### Sobering message

But the rise in out-of-wedlock births and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS shows teens are getting caught, she said.

And that's what led her to champion chastity over the more frequent message of abstinence taught in schools

and elsewhere today.

"I believe kids today can practice self-control" regarding sex, despite society's messages about them being powerless against their "raging hormones."

"I believe in willpower over 'kill-power,'" she said, referring to abortion as a way of undoing what lack of control causes.

"I believe in common sense over 'condom-sense,'" said the woman whose quips and puns have made her a popular speaker in schools and colleges across the United States and Canada.

"Condoms can't help with a broken heart," she said. If a boy leaves a girl because she refuses to have sex, he didn't love her anyway, said Kelly.

Chastity, said the mother of eight and grandmother of nine, is never having to say "never" to sex, which is what the word "abstinence" implies.

Chastity only means placing sexual intercourse "in marriage, where it belongs," along with love and commitment, she said.

She doesn't teach that sex is bad.

"It's always good," she said. When practiced in marriage, it's also "a good way of not needing birth control."

The big problem is, she said, more kids today know about safe sex than about chastity.

"It means the condom companies are doing a better job of advertising" than is the chastity movement, which she said is ecumenical - "It started with the Baptists."

Today's children "are not bad kids," she said. "It's just harder to grow up today."

Duggan, from Country Day, said he agreed with Kelly's message that "saved sex" is better than "safe sex."

Three teens from one family - Catherine Powell of North Farmington High School, cousin Christine Hayes of Warner Middle School and her older sister, Maria, of Mercy High - also said the Chastity Lady was "right-on."

"There's definitely a lot of pressure" on teenagers to have sex today, said Catherine, and not all of it comes from

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