

**COMMUNITY**  
 OF  
*Faith*

Ten students combine Catholicism and house chores to build a spiritual support system in a five-bedroom home.



The residents of St. Joseph's Vineyard gather for their weekly, family-style dinner.

**P**eals of laughter from the large, family-style kitchen can be heard as soon as the front door of St. Joseph's Vineyard is open.

It is dinner time in this Christian community formed by students, and the 10 residents of the house are milling around the table, preparing dinner or finishing their laundry.

In this room, they bump into each other, duck under platters of food, play practical jokes and engage in discussions about their own spirituality.

Richard Rychetsky, a house resident and a senior biomedical science major, said this relaxed atmosphere allows the community members to get into deep conversations that are on a higher spiritual level than most people are accustomed to.

He also said it allows for questions regarding personal faith and Catholicism to be asked without the fear of offending someone.

Adrian Benson, spiritual leader of the house and a senior industrial engineering major, said the roommate situation is beneficial.

"The most fruitful thing about choosing to live in the community is that you learn about unconditional love," he said. "Because instead of choosing who to live with, you choose where to live."

The house operates like the home of a large family. The residents have their own chores that they jokingly call their "talent of the week." A rotation system has

proven to be essential for the chores, house dinner preparation and use of the laundry facilities. Chore lists are posted on the refrigerator, and a small, white eraser board hangs by the washer and dryer where the days to do laundry are individually assigned.

At the beginning of the semester, a night of the week is designated for the house dinner, a time for all the members of the house to eat together. Each week, two residents volunteer to cook the meal, earning them the privilege to each invite one guest to dinner.

Another privilege is bestowed on the youngest resident of the house, who is allowed to ask each dinner guest three questions, such as the origins of their last name, how their parents met, or if there is anyone famous in their family.

Nestled in the "northside wing" of St. Joseph's Vineyard is a chapel in which the residents devote 20 to 30 minutes, Sunday through Thursday, to praying silently, saying the rosary or having a community Bible study.

To heighten their spiritual experience, they have devised a "prayer partner" system requiring that time must be spent each day in prayer or conversation outside of evening devotion.

"It is on a biweekly rotation system," Benson said. "Besides supporting a fellow Christian through hard times, it also allows the residents to get to know one

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Story by Cecile Mazzola

Photos by Rachel Redington

**NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

**WORKSHOPS AND APPLICATION DEADLINES  
 FALL SEMESTER 1996**

The Office of Honors Programs and Academic Scholarships will offer several Informational meetings this fall on the following highly competitive scholarships. Mark your calendar if you are interested in learning about any of the following scholarships:

**Rhodes Scholarship Informational Meeting**  
 September 4 4:00 p.m. 207 Academic Building

**British Marshall Scholarship Informational Meeting**  
 September 9 4:00 p.m. 207 Academic Building

**Truman Scholarship Informational Meeting**  
 September 10 4:00 p.m. 207 Academic Building

**Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship Informational Meeting**  
 September 12 4:00 p.m. 207 Academic Building

**National Science foundation Graduate Fellowships and  
 Minority Graduate Fellowships Preparatory Workshop**  
 October 15 6:00 p.m. MSC 228

If you have any questions about any of these scholarship competitions, please contact Djuana Young at djuana@aphonors.tamu.edu or Dr. Susanna Finnell at sfinnell@tamu.edu, or call 845-1957.

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