



## ORDINARY SAINTS

People who would *never* call themselves "saints" – although *we* know better!

Photo by Paula Hansen



**Alana Marcelletti**

### Alana Marcelletti: Teen Follows Family Tradition, Creates Her Own

by Judy Lynn Shields

The name "Marcelletti" may sound very familiar to St. Monica's parishioners who have gotten married here. Alana's mother, Serita Marcelletti, grandmother, Carm Marcelletti, and aunt, Luan Perry all work as parish Wedding Coordinators. Alana's younger brother, Nicholas Marcelletti, and sister, Alyshia Marcelletti are considering taking up this unique ministry when they get older, to carry on the family tradition. Alana is 17 years old, and an alumna of St. Monica's Elementary School. Alana will be starting her senior year at Notre Dame Academy for Girls in West Los Angeles in September, 2001. She is still deciding on college, but is currently partial to UCLA. She is also involved heavily in the parish youth ministry efforts.

Alana's involvement with youth ministry began shortly after her Confirmation. Alana enjoyed the Confirmation classes so much she decided she wanted to become more involved. She became friends with John Hicks, previously employed as a receptionist in the St. Monica's Pastoral Center. He

was one of the leaders of the Thursday night youth gatherings. From there, Alana met Sean Tyler, the interim Youth Ministry Coordinator. Now Alana works closely with Patricia or "Pat" Rinella, the current Youth Ministry Coordinator, to plan activities for the regular Thursday evening meetings, held from 7:00-9:00 pm in the Duval Center. Alana also teaches in the High School Confirmation program, held on Sundays, from 2:30-4:30 pm in the Trepp Center.

The 1:15pm Sunday liturgy began in September, 2000. Alana's involvement at this Mass began when she was recruited by Veronica Cappalonga to serve as a lector. After doing that for awhile, Alana then moved to leadership of Hospitality for the youth liturgy, where she also serves as a Eucharistic Minister. The Sunday 1:15pm Mass is completely planned and staffed by youth of the parish. The choir consists primarily of St. Monica's elite singing group, the Rainbow Riders, but Alana stresses that non-St. Monica students are also very welcome to participate. (In fact, Ed Archer, the parish Music Director, hopes that more non-St. Monica students will get involved in order to facilitate a smooth transition when many of the current Rainbow Riders graduate.)

Alana considers her involvement with youth ministry to be the most important part of her life, and hopes that other teens will discover and commit themselves to the program as well.

Although still a teen, Alana is on her way toward a lifetime of service and leadership — the long path walked by every "Ordinary Saint."

