

Not just a portrait but an heirloom work of art

By **CRYSTAL HILL**
Tribune Correspondent

A picture is a timeless piece of art that can freeze a moment in time forever.

Traditions Photography, specializing in children's and family portraits, is owned by Eileen Dimino. Her goal as the photographer of the studio is to give a picture that is an heirloom, held onto and cherished for years to come.

Dimino, an arts major at Saint Mary's College in South Bend, took some photography classes at the college. After graduating, Dimino spent time learning hands-on from a photographer in Virginia while her husband was getting his

Get the picture

For a preview of Eileen Dimino's work, visit www.traditionsphotography.com. To set up a consultation or to get more information, Dimino can be reached at (574) 271-7751, at the studio from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

master's degree. They moved back to the South Bend area, and she began working for a studio in South Bend.

Shortly after, her first child was born, Dimino got back into photography. She started her own studio, Traditions Photography, about four years ago.

She wanted her studio to focus on photographing maternity portraits, newborns, children and family por-

traits.

Every client that comes to the studio for a portrait spends a considerable amount of time trying to get the perfect one for them. The process begins with a consultation. Dimino and the client "talk about what they are going to wear, where they might hang the portraits, what kind of backgrounds they like," said Dimino.

If the family wants a wall

portrait for their living room, Dimino will discuss the decor of the room, from the colors to other decorations.

Each photography session is about one hour long. Dimino said this gives the children time to become comfortable around her. Dimino avoids props and poses while creating portraits. They "focus on what the kids are doing" at that stage in their life, said Dimino.

About a week after the session, the family comes back to the studio to view the portraits in a slide show and choose which ones they want.

Dimino said she looks at

the clients purchasing portraits as an investment. She values their time, money and desires for the end portrait.

"It's not just a picture of your child," said Dimino. "It's heirloom artwork, which is what I want my work to be considered."

Traditions Photography offers a session called the Bebe Collection. This collection is a compilation of a child growing during the first year: The child is photographed at ages 3 months, 6 months and 12 months.

Traditions Photography also offers holiday greeting cards. Even though children

can be photographed at all times during the year, Dimino says that October, November and December are the busiest times of the year.

Dimino works to perfect the imperfections and get the best candid shot of the person being photographed. She says the best compliment is having a client say, "Wow, you really captured their personality."



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