



Coordinators gather in main room of retreat house for morning session.



Pondering over Msgr. Fox

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They call themselves "the Rochester 57" and the mission they have chosen is to direct quality religious education for all members of the parish community.

Last week, secluded in the quiet hills overlooking Lake Canandaigua, they held a three day workshop to plan new strategy with the help of an experienced cohort from New York City, Msgr. Robert Fox.

"The Rochester 57" are more commonly known as the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine co-ordinators: those full-time, paid, professional nuns, priests and lay people who go into a parish and determine its religious education needs.

"They are comparable to a district supervisor in public schools," Father Daniel Holland, director of the CCD division of education, explained.

"For about five years we have been hoping this group would take responsibility for themselves, stake their own future, and set up their own identity. I think this workshop is a sign of this group's coming of age. They organized it completely."

The plan of the office is to find the right people to take initiative, be creative and make things happen. The group is varied, and each has a full background of education and experience.

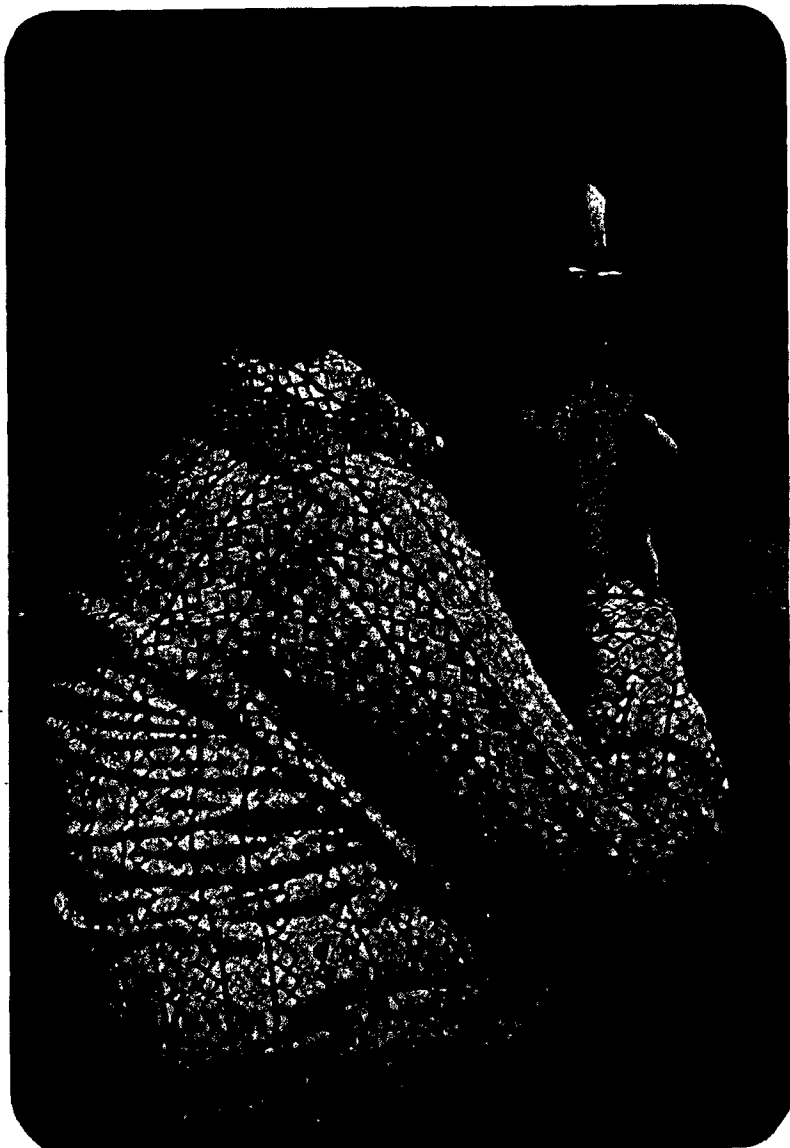
Those gathered were very excited by Msgr. Fox's discussion of the mission of the Church and the way to reach the people in the city and suburbs.

For the past three years Msgr. Fox has lived in East Harlem and is very much a part of that community. He grew up in the Bronx and attended public schools there. After graduating from St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers he earned a master's degree in sociology from Catholic University, studied at Catholic University in Puerto Rico and spent two years in Uruguay on a Fulbright grant, teaching at two schools of social work.

After spending 1963 to 1969 in the Spanish apostolate of the Pastoral Office of the Archdiocese of New York, Msgr. Fox decided his place was in Harlem.

He cautioned his attentive listeners against forgetting their greatest responsibility — "to live with some consciousness, some celebration of ourselves with others" — and warned against the temptation to live on top of a situation, in control of it, managing it without any contemplation or wonder about it.

Sister Nancy McGowan of Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, expressed an exemplary opinion of Monsignor Fox: "It is such a refreshing thing to have someone say what you have been feeling."



Father Daniel Holland, head of diocesan CCD program, listens to ideas presented by speaker, Msgr. Fox.