

There are 20 colleges and universities in the diocese, and on these campuses some two dozen priests and sisters labor full or part-time as Campus Ministers. Their mission is simple: to make Christ and the Church present and visible for the whole academic community, and to help the members of the community to grow in their commitment to Christ and to His Gospel.

According to Father Gerald Appelby, diocesan director of Campus Ministry, there are as many models of ministry as there are campuses, because no two colleges are alike. However, they are identical in the four goals through which they fulfill the mission of the Church entrusted to them: worship, education, counseling and service.

In years gone by, the presence of the Church on campus was known as the Newman Club. This form of presence no longer exists. Rather, because of the enormous numbers of Catholic students and faculty who turn to their chaplains for direction, the Church has established its ministry to higher education as a fully parochial one. Hence, Campus Parishes.

A Campus Parish performs all the functions of any territorial parish, and then a few. The Sacraments are celebrated, programs of education in theology, biblical studies and ethics are presented, long hours are spent in religious and other counseling, the children of students and faculty are educated in the Faith — and all the services expected of a parish are performed. Over and above these functions, the Campus Ministers see themselves performing another singular

and vital function: they are the presence of the Church, in dialogue with higher education and those who shape the destiny of both education and those being educated. For the future of the Church, this is a most critical role.

We visited just such a Campus Parish last week, at the Rochester Institute of Technology. It is typical of this mission of the Church — and yet not quite typical, for there are 800 deaf students on campus, in the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, one of the eight colleges of R.I.T. The ministry team at R.I.T. is composed of three chaplains: Father Appelby, who also acts as coordinator for all the chaplains at the Institute; Sister Shirley Pilot, SSJ, who in addition to her role as chaplain also serves on several Institute Committees, and Father Thomas Erdle, chaplain to the deaf students, who also teaches in N.T.I.D. and serves the needs of the deaf in the total Rochester Community.

The week in the Campus Parish at R.I.T. is much the same as in any busy, active parish: Masses, sacraments, teaching, counseling, meeting of committees, dialogue with students and faculty of all faiths. But it all "comes together" on the weekend, when the Faith Community gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Masses are celebrated every day of the week on campus — but, as with all parishes, the Saturday and Sunday Masses are the high point. For this is when students, faculty and their families, and those from off campus who have affiliated with the Campus Parish gather together in worship and community celebration.



The Ministry at RIT can be justifiably proud of the fact that it fills Ingle Auditorium for Mass; Father Appelby prepares for Holy Communion, above, which most of the congregation receives.



Katy Leavitt glues her leaf to the tree as Sister Shirley motions for the children to return to Mass.



Children of students, faculty, and off-campus parishioners have their own Liturgy of the Word each week, and rejoin the adult congregation in time for the Offertory procession.



Father Erdle "talks" to some deaf students, after Mass.



Father Appelby converses with some parishioners after Mass.