



The ministry to separated, divorced and remarried Catholics continues to be a major vehicle of healing and new hope for thousands of Catholics throughout the diocese. Peer ministry is a key element in helping one another to renew their faith through sharing and practical help. Above and below, some of the 150 single parents and children gathered for a family camp week at Camp Stella Maris.



## IS YOUR PARISH INVOLVED?

The Office of Family Life and Office of Religious Education have been and will be developing many excellent resources for parish Family Ministry programs during 1980.

But...They don't want to mail materials into the wind! They need the names of parish contact persons who will steer the materials in the right direction. Does your parish have a contact? Call the Office of Family Life (716/436-5450) to be sure. If not, ask your parish council to appoint an individual or committee and let us know. They'll receive:

- A large packet of resources (free) developed by the U.S. Bishops's Office.

- Notices of monthly Family Ministry Enrichment Nights.

- Samples of programs being conducted in other parishes.

- Notices of special events — e.g. dates and suggested activities for the "Family" series of Father John Powell, SJ, to be aired on WXXI in February/March.

## ...AND IN THE FUTURE

The Diocesan Family Ministry Task Force was convened in March, 1979 to begin setting future directions for Family Ministry for the Church of Rochester. Their convening was prompted not only by the U. S. Bishops' Plan, but by the continual call of Church people for increased support for families in the Call-To-Action process, through the Diocesan Pastoral Council and later confirmed in the Selection of Bishop process.

The Task Force envisions developments along these lines:

### Educational:

Teaching skills to family people as they proceed through different family life cycles e.g., marriage preparation, parenting, mid-life issues, death-separation; helping them to discover the meaning of faith in the midst of home life.

Concrete training for current and future ministerial people

(parish staffs and lay ministers) to assist them in identifying and responding to families as units as distinguished from serving individuals in isolation.

### Families in Crisis:

Identifying and publicizing the hundreds of valuable family services already existing in Church and community for help in such family crisis as: alcoholism, marital family tension, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, job or financial pressures.

Training for peer ministers and parish staffs to extend the healing helping hand of the Lord in concrete ways in the midst of such crises.

### Policy/Advocacy:

To assist the institutional Church in examining and improving the impact of its conscious and unconscious policies on

family units, particularly at diocesan and parish levels.

To challenge the business community to examine the impact of corporate policy (conscious and unconscious) on family unity.

The Task-Force sees its fruit as long-range attitudinal change, moving from a focus on individuals to a focus on family units as essential elements in the well-being of Church and society.

Family Ministry Task Force membership: Dr. Janet Foy, chairperson; Jean Cardinali; Mary Jo Crimi; Roger and Terry D'Aprix; Father Gerald Dunn; Sister Jane Geiger; Sister Marie Martin; Freida McCray; Lucie Michaloski; Dick and Linda Rauscher; Sister Aida Sansor; John and Betty Schmitt; Maurice J. Tierney; Rev. John Walker; Father Timothy Weider; Frank and Sue Staropoli, staff coordinators.



The future of family ministry will be based in large part on peer ministry concepts including skill development and leadership training of lay people. Above, representatives of the Office of Family Life and Catholic Family Center are designing a program to be piloted this winter. The Helping Couples project will train and organize married couples to serve other married couples who are experiencing difficulty in communications.