

60 Parishes Sign On For Needs Assessment

As September and the conference that launches diocesan needs assessment approaches, 60 parishes and faith communities from all over the diocese have registered so far according to Deacon Claude Lester, director of parish services.

"It's very encouraging in numbers of people," Lester said. "and especially with the number of other parishes that plan to be present for events and workshops on the 21st." Lester is also pleased by the variety and geographic range participants represent, from Newman communities including the University of Rochester, Monroe Community College, Cornell and RIT, to social ministry committees, religious educators, the Sisters of St. Joseph, and parishes from St. Cecilia's in Elmira to St. Joachim in Canisteo to Blessed Sacrament in Rochester.

"Dare To Dream: Free To Serve," as needs assessment is entitled, aims to help each participating community plan for the 1990's. At the initial conference on Sept. 21 in Geneva and at a subsequent series of workshops around the diocese, representatives will receive support in identifying needs in their communities, writing mission statements and forming specific goals toward accomplishing their missions. In joining together to share needs and objectives, communities should also create new networks of support between one another and the diocese.

To date, Lester and an appointed operational steering committee have been working to inform and promote needs assessment at the parish level. Diocesan personnel, the priests' and sisters' councils, and parishes are represented on the committee.

the 1990s. The paper will be presented at some point during the weekend's activities yet to be determined.

On Saturday, Sept. 21, needs assessment participants will gather for a leadership conference at DeSales High School in Geneva. Father Eugene Hemrick, director of research for the U.S. Catholic Conference/National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., will be featured. He will speak on "Sharing Responsibility as We Build Church." Workshops will also be offered on a variety of levels and topics, focusing on the formation of a mission statement.

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and in conjunction with Saturday's conference, Bishop Clark will celebrate Mass on Friday evening, Sept. 20, at St. Stephen's Church. All participants in the Mass will share with those assembled their responses to two questions: "What do you feel the greatest gift or blessing the DPC has been to the Diocese in its 10 years?" and "What do you feel is the greatest challenge facing the DPC in the future?"

Following the conference, needs assessment's next step is a series of 15 leadership training workshops. Scheduled in October and November at locations throughout the

Meanwhile, in conjunction with the opening event, Bishop Matthew H. Clark is writing a focus/vision paper to draw attention to areas of note in parish planning for diocese, the workshops will be directed toward new parish council members and those "veterans" interested in further education on the function of councils. The Office of Pastoral Planning will also make presentations in addition to the second round of



needs assessment activity — determining community needs and priorities through available demographics.

A third round of workshops, yet to be scheduled, will center on forming long- and short-term goals.

Input received throughout needs assessment will be reviewed by diocesan division directors as well as the operational steering

committee, and will provide Bishop Clark with perspective on matching service and program needs at the diocesan level to allocation of resources.

Although June 30 was fixed as the deadline to register for needs assessment, Lester encourages any parish or group interested in taking part to contact him at the Pastoral Center.

Bishop Terms Hispanic Evangelization U.S. Church's Greatest Challenge

Evangelization of Catholic Hispanics is the most crucial issue confronting the Church in the United States according to Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, N.M., in July's EXTENSION magazine.

"If we do not start addressing in a very serious way some of the needs of the Hispanic people, we may be on the verge of setting the Church back for generations and maybe with an entire people," he said.

Hispanics now comprise one-third of the Catholics in the U.S. and are projected to become the majority ethnic group by the year 2000. Although Hispanics are traditionally Catholic, unless the Church acts immediately, the bishop warned, many will be lost to other denominations.

"For a long time we have taken for granted that Hispanics are Catholic. Now we're finding this generation overwhelmed by Protestant evangelists. They have been very successful, especially in areas where the Church has not been providing for the Spanish-speaking," Bishop Ramirez added.

Translations of liturgies and literature into Spanish is one need of Hispanics, many of whom speak only Spanish. Parishes also need to observe Hispanic religious fiestas and customs from the Posada at Christmas to the many Marian traditions of Hispanic origin.

"We should never lose sight of the ideal, which is for everyone to respect one another,

recognize each other's unique gifts, and make sure that no one is to be left out," the bishop suggested to parishes with only partial Hispanic populations.

Bishop Ramirez also pointed out the poverty in Hispanic communities as an issue the Church must address. "In my diocese alone, about 43 percent of the people are at or below the poverty level. Works of mercy and justice are ways in which we make the Church visible and credible," he wrote.

The bishop does have hope for the future. Hispanic vocations are increasing in this country; one-fifth of deacons are Hispanic and lay ministry is involving large numbers of Spanish-speaking people in outreach efforts.

"In some places, the picture is more beautiful than others. In Chicago, for instance, something like 50 percent of the high school seminarians are Hispanic, which is a good sign," he said, but added that there are some areas of the country that really should have Hispanic bishops, auxiliaries if not ordinaries. "If you don't have role models, you don't get vocations. AND it is really hard to break the cycle," he added.

Bishop Ramirez served as auxiliary bishop in San Antonio, Texas, before his appointment to Las Cruces in 1982. An interview with him was featured in the July issue of EXTENSION as part of a series on Hispanic Catholics.

St. Mary's, Watkins Glen, Offers Mass on Radio for Shut-ins, Sick

By Mike Myers

A radio outreach ministry has been going out from St. Mary of the Lakes, Watkins Glen, for seven years now.

The 10 a.m. Mass has been broadcast on station WGMF since a group of seven businessmen got together to find ways to evangelize Schuyler County.

Father Andrew Kalafsky, St. Mary's pastor, says the purpose of the radio Mass is to "reach out and bring the local Catholic Mass to homes, to bring the parish into the homes."

The radio expenses, paid by individual donors, are \$38 for the one-hour broadcast. WGMF owner Thomas Haight says the rates are considerably lower than usual, but "we consider this a part of the longstanding tradition at WGMF to fill the public service needs of the Schuyler Valley."

After Communion is distributed during the Mass, eucharistic ministers fan out to the hospital and long-term care facility as well as to the homes of shut-ins, so those unable to physically attend Mass can both join in through the radio and share in Communion.

The connection between St. Mary's and the radio station is a "dedicated" telephone line, which is tied into the church amplifier system and runs to the station board. A simple phone call to the station before Mass gets the levels set at the studio.

Very little has to be done liturgically to adapt the Mass to radio. A prerecorded tape with the sound of the bells of St. Mary's and an introduction by Father Kalafsky is played

in the radio station. The lector listens for the cue words: "Now listen to the voice of our lector" on a small radio. He then proceeds with a greeting for both the church congregation and the radio listeners. Since the radio listeners may miss being able to see the presentation of the Mass, brief statements are given describing the color of the priest's vestments, the appearance of the church, the name of the celebrant and homilist, plus the books and chapters of the scripture readings.

Since the 10 a.m. Mass is sung, the periods of reflection in the Mass, during which "dead air" would occur in a spoken Mass, are covered. The entrance procession, the offertory collection, and communion periods, which would otherwise be silent except for the sounds of the congregation moving about, are filled by the choir. To allow the choir to receive Communion, the lector leads the Communion verse and a brief, appropriate prayer. The choir also sings during the Sign of Peace.

Father Kalafsky says he's "very pleased with what it (the Mass broadcast) does for our parishioners who cannot come to Mass."

No statistics are available as to how many people listen to the Mass, but Father Kalafsky says he has been approached by non-Catholics who say they listen, and tourists have contributed to the costs of broadcasting. WGMF's signal can be picked up in Syracuse and Rochester when conditions are favorable, according to Haight.

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