

**Appeal Funds at Work  
Division of Special Pastoral Ministries**



*"In my vision of our diocesan Church, I see a Christian community of women and men full of spiritual vitality, gathering strength from their association with each other and the sacraments; by their faith in action, showing sensitivity to the many sound issues of our times. In my vision each would minister to the other; the Church would exhibit the shared life and ideas of its members, irrespective of status, gender, and denomination.*

*Through your continuous support of the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal, you are assisting all of us in shaping this vision of Church."*

—Sister Mary Hilaire Gaelens, RSM  
Director, Division of Special Pastoral Ministries

The DIVISION OF SPECIAL PASTORAL MINISTRIES is dedicated to offering programs and services needed to educate all the people of God about the value of, and forms of, shared ministry.

Sister Mary Hilaire Gaelens, RSM, the Division Director, said that it is a goal of her division to proclaim through its many programs the inter-related oneness of ministry in the diocese of Rochester.

"Through the programs and services rendered by all of the personnel within this Division", Sister Hilaire says, "it is my hope that each one of us in our local church looks beyond concept of ministry as an individual task and join together as a community to meet needs that require the combined efforts of many — needs that move beyond commissions, departments, programs and the parish level to embrace the diocesan church."

Sister Hilaire points to the "DARE TO DREAM: FREE TO SERVE" project as one way her division is reaching out to meet the needs of the Church of Rochester by utilizing the input received through parishes and the faith community they serve.

In the words of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the "DARE TO DREAM: FREE TO SERVE" project is an invitation to all people throughout the diocese to participate in the needs assessment project. Bishop Clark says

that the project will provide integrated input to his office to help him form a broader perspective of needed services and programs for the Church of Rochester."

The Diocesan Commission on Women, established by Bishop Clark last January is under the auspices of the DIVISION OF SPECIAL PASTORAL MINISTRIES."

This commission is in the process of reaching out to men and women of the diocese, urging them to attend a series of Reflection Forums to express their opinion and experiences with respect to women and the church that will provide assistance to the U. S. Bishops in drafting the Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church and Society.

The Division of Special Pastoral Ministries reaches out in many other ways to fulfill the goal expressed by Sister Hilaire that the needs of the diocese be met through "the combined efforts of many".

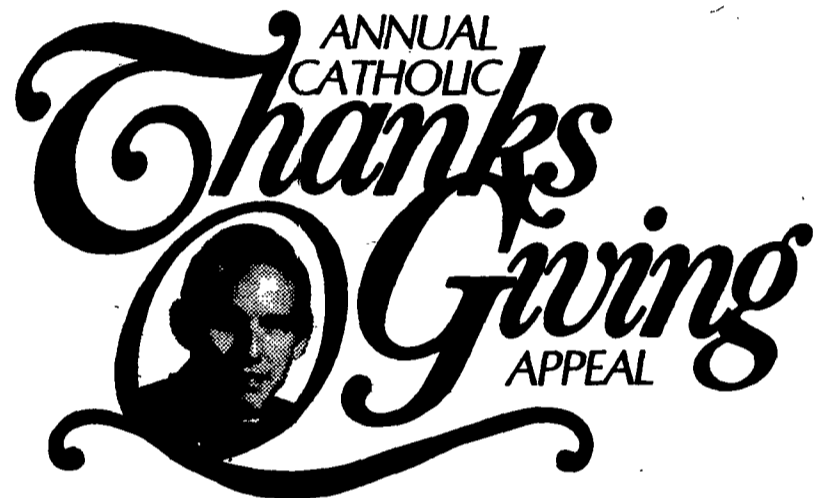
Parish Leadership Workshops are provided regularly as are prayer experiences for parish ministers.

The Office of Liturgy, an arm of this division, provides training programs for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers; for folks involved in the misc ministry of the church. The Liturgy Office provides numerous consultative services to enhance the worship of faith communities throughout the diocese.

The men and women in Campus Ministry minister to the needs of the large college population of the diocese.

"Another important focus of this division," Sister Hilaire says, "is the Ecumenical work carried on in the diocese".

The Diocese is presently involved in ongoing activities sponsored by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. An Ecumenical Marriage and Ecumenical Pre-Cana Program is being introduced in the diocese and a set of Ecumenical-Interfaith Guidelines is about to be published.



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