

# Young adult ministry shaken by diocesan staff, budget cuts

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"We expect to have a better idea of where we're going by the end of April. My own personal timeline is to have a finished proposal maybe by the end of June and to initiate publication of a combined newsletter in the fall," he added.

Schnorr agrees that parish staff members receive too much mail from the Diocesan Pastoral Center. But she doesn't believe *Focus* belongs in the same category as many of the other newsletters canceled by the moratorium.

Because young adults are typically not registered in parishes, members of the commission claim that their newsletter is evangelical, rather than strictly informational in nature — a fact that they say is not recognized when diocesan publications are lumped together.

"*Focus* is not one of those things pastoral staffs are complaining about getting," Schnorr said. "In fact when we asked for subscriptions in our last issue, most of the people that responded were pastors."

Meanwhile, Schnorr added, because young adults are such a mobile population, *Focus's* mailing list could be substantially outdated by this fall.

"We're definitely going to talk with the (communication) committee members," she said. "In light of the coordinator's position, which represents almost our whole budget, we're hoping to be able to negotiate

on *Focus*."

Ironically, the budget cuts mandated by the Thanks Giving Appeal shortfall will affect ministry to a group which has been identified as one of the richest potential targets for the appeal. Young adults have, for the most part, not contributed to the appeal in past years. Yet, as an age group with a significant proportion of discretionary income, they represent a largely untapped resource, both financially and in the amount of time and variety of talents they have to offer the Church.

"Right now, young adults are contributing to Mother Teresa, Jerry Lewis, the American Cancer Society, because those organizations are connecting with their lives," said Elizabeth Maurer, director of religious education at Blessed Sacrament Parish.

"They're doing things that are very Christian, but not Church-related. Until the Church connects with their lives, they're not going to give. I have seen that the more we do and the more we talk about what we're doing, the more they are willing to give," she said.

After three years, the results of Blessed Sacrament's ministry to young adults are just beginning to affect the parish at large. Young adults there are running for openings on parish council, establishing youth ministry, staffing the church's overnight shelter and serving as liturgical ministers.

"It takes time — a lot of time — and effort and patience," Maurer said. "But pastoral ministry cannot be justified by numbers."

A founding member of the Blessed Sacrament young adult planning team and a member of the diocesan commission, Maurer is equally as apprehensive as Schnorr about the cuts.

"Newsletters and flyers are the only way we can reach all the people who are out there," she explained. In the past year, she credits direct contacts with at least 35 young adults to *Focus* and referrals by Rinefierd.

As coordinator, Rinefierd served as a resource person for parishes trying to establish young adult ministry and as a consultant for continuing programs like Blessed Sacrament's. "Places that are just starting up and struggling need somebody they can call," Maurer said. "And I've had lengthy conversations with Karen in the past year, just wanting to bounce things off her ... When we were trying to resolve some personality conflicts on the planning team, she was the one who suggested a retreat. She also reinforces a lot of things that are mentioned by members of the team at meetings."

Rinefierd also channeled into the diocese the expertise she gained through contact with young adult ministers from dioceses all over the country and through national young adult publications.

"Parishes can't afford to send people to these events," Maurer said. "Young adult ministry is in its inception here. There's a lot to be gained from the experience of other dioceses."

"I understand the fact that Bishop Clark had to make cuts — he doesn't have the money. He has indicated in the past that he is very committed to young adult ministry," Maurer said. "But I don't think the diocese understands that young adult ministry is different than anything else they've tried. We don't reach out to these people in any way through parish structures, which are mostly family-oriented."

As the parish with possibly the largest young adult population in the diocese, Blessed Sacrament has allocated a large portion of its resources to that ministry in the person of Maurer. "Because we have such a large young adult population, I can spend a lot of my time with young adults," Maurer said. "But that's not the situation everywhere."

Meanwhile, as word spreads of Blessed Sacrament's experience in young adult ministry, she anticipates that more and more people may begin to contact her in the capacity of a diocesan coordinator.

"They really should be talking to a diocesan person," Maurer said. "I'll do it, but it's not really fair to Blessed Sacrament."

## Clinical Pastoral Education accepting new applications

The Religious Services Program at Monroe Developmental Center is accepting applications for an extended unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, beginning in September, 1986, and lasting through April, 1987. The program is open to clergy, religious, seminarians and laypersons. The extended unit requires approximately 15 hours of work per week. It combines an assignment as an assistant chaplain in ministry with clients, staff, relatives and volunteers in religious services at the development center, with didactic seminars, group seminars, and individual supervision. Applicants should send in the standard CPE applications to Father Bill Gaventa at 620 Westfall Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14620. Application forms and more information can be obtained by calling (716)461-2800, ext. 444. The application deadline is May, 15.

## 'Daughters of Eve' slated for performance in Ithaca

The Women's Aglow Fellowship, Ithaca Chapter, will present a production of "Daughters of Eve," a Christian dramatization written by Barbara Hungerford, on April 14, in the Women's Community Building, 100 W. Seneca St., Ithaca. The production will be performed by Company Theater, a group consisting of Christians of various denominational backgrounds.

This dramatic work concerns the lives, perspectives and character of selected women of the Bible. The exploration of the lives of these women allows the audience to contemplate not only what it means to be a woman, but what it means to be "a woman of God." Reservations can be made until April 10 by calling (607)273-8893 or (607)844-8814.

## Aquinas Institute announces annual winter sports awards

Dennis Sadler, athletic director at Aquinas, recently announced the awards for winter sports.

From the swim team, Brian O'Sullivan was named most valuable, with Mike O'Sullivan garnering the most outstanding award. Tom Trudeau and Tom Vandewater were named most outstanding and most improved, respectively.

Joe Carello and Paul Colucci were named rookies of the year from the Ice Hockey team. Also receiving honors for the icemen were Jim Kartes and Rich Alloco as most valuable and Mike Toscano as most improved. The Sportmanship Award went to Tim O'Loughlin.

From the Little Irish Section 5 boys' basketball finalists, Chris Thomas was tabbed most valuable, and Wakili Moore was named most outstanding. The most improved honor went to Tim Reynders, with Paul Mancarella and Eric Loewenguth capturing the leadership and captain awards, respectively.

The Jon Schwab-Jamie Forbes brawl was named the "Fight of the Night" at Aquinas' "A Night of Boxing" last month. Forbes was also honored as fighter of the night. Frank Umbrino was given the freshman fighter award, and the Al and Joe Schmitz Award went to Jerry DeCarolis.

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