

# Budget

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department has been asked to provide the same information via a standard form.

After a number of meetings, MRC members and division directors concluded that each division should report the information that best reflects the kind of work it does.

"We want this to not be a waste of time on either end," explained Father Robert Schrader, director of personnel, staffing and development. "We hope to be giving the MRC and the DPC a clearer picture of what we're doing by the information that we present them."

**TGA funds do not appear to directly address the needs of the elderly.**

Diocesan divisions do indirectly support many programs that serve the elderly, by providing overhead costs, staff time, coordination and leadership. MRC members urged these divisions to take a more comprehensive look at emerging needs of the elderly and their families, and to consider funding at least some direct services with TGA funds.

"A lot of things are being done, but not adequately, for the numbers of elderly," Arrington said. "There are not just physical needs, but pastoral needs, and there isn't an overall plan to determine what is being done and what will need to be done in the future."

In addition to its general recommendations, the MRC report commented specifically on six of the seven diocesan divisions. Although the Bishop's Ministries Division submitted reports, the MRC did not write a review because it is short of members and because Bishop Clark, the division director, is away on retreat.

Centralized mail was among the programs praised by the MRC. Introduced in May, 1986, by the Department of Communications, the system has already reduced mailing expenses by 28 percent.

Also cited was the success of parish-based retreat programs and teen sexuality programs offered by the Office of Youth Ministry, part of the Division of Education.

More than 1,400 teens from 49 parishes participated in 35 retreats during the six-month period reviewed. Demand was so great for programs on teenage sexuality that the youth ministry office will begin recruiting and training volunteers to offer the programs.

Recognizing that more and more diocesan programs are relying on volunteers to compensate for staff shortages, the drafters of the report highlighted the Collegial Associates Program as one model for ways in which divisions and departments can recruit and train them.

Claude Lester, director and sole staff member in the Office of Parish Services, developed the program for lay persons, religious or clergy willing to help local parish councils meet such needs as leadership training or goal-setting.

The MRC also commended the divisions of social ministry and support services for the efforts contributed by their volunteers.

On the negative side, the MRC report pointed to a lack of financial help for low- and middle-income parents who wish to send their children to Catholic schools. It also urged that the social ministry division re-establish its family ministry office.

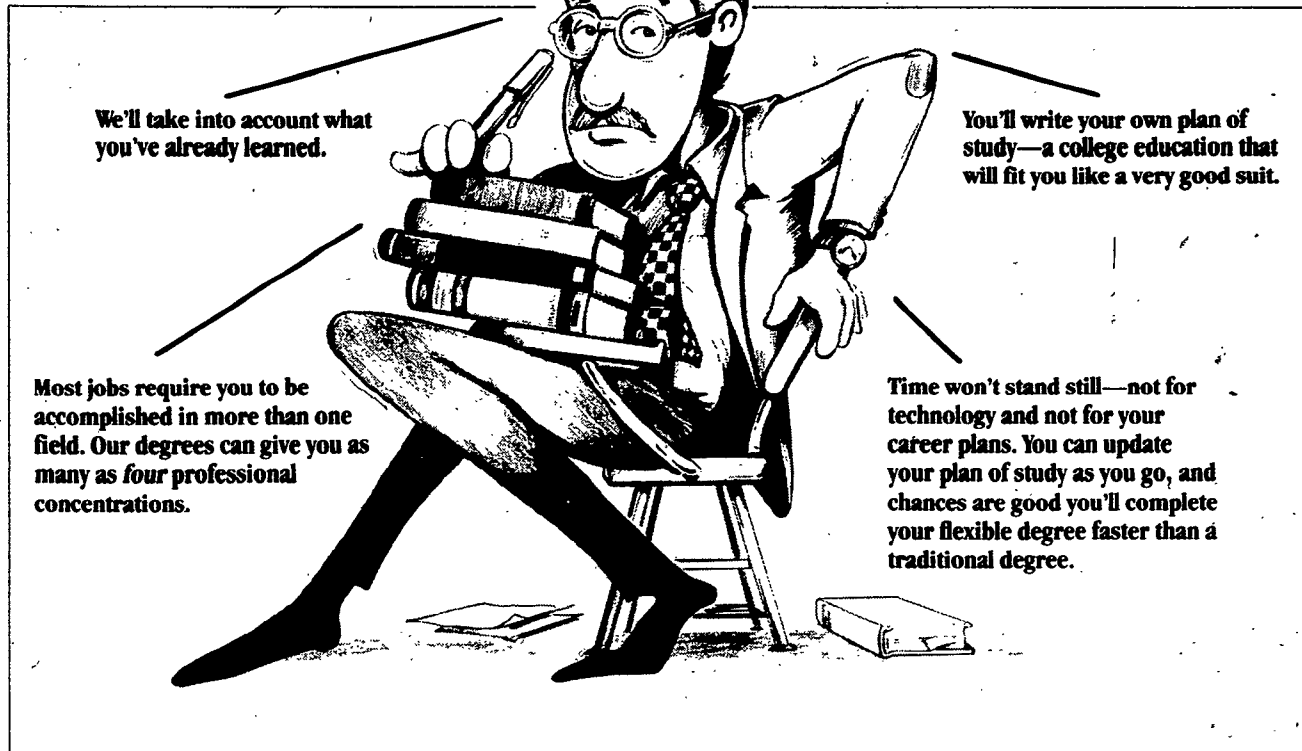
At the end of Arrington's presentation, members of the DPC voted 28-1, with one abstention, to accept the MRC report and recommend it to Bishop Clark.

In past years, MRC members have been frustrated by the lack of attention and follow-up their reports received. This year, DPC executive secretary Martha Jodoin will ask division directors to describe in their next report whatever measures they take in response to the MRC recommendations. The MRC will present its next report to the DPC in May.

## Clarification

Last week's front-page story on the closing of St. Anthony of Padua School stated that it was the only school to take part in a plan for a west-side regional junior high at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Two parishes also support the junior high — St. Augustine's (which closed its own school last year) and Good Counsel.

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