



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal  
Shirley Porter from St. Patrick's, Corning, writes her thoughts down before joining a discussion group.

## Lay people

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"We are not being told from our pulpits about the need for lay involvement," she said.

Shirley Porter of St. Patrick's, Corning, believes that many lay people feel unworthy to assume duties that clergy or religious have customarily performed. "We have put priests and sisters on a pedestal," she said. "A lot of lay people don't feel worthy of the responsibility."

On the other hand, she noted, other parishioners tend to resent those lay people who do undertake leading roles.

"Some people get very angry when you take on more and more, but it's just that you love the priest and you want to help him," she said.

Observing that women far outnumbered men at the listening session, Porter said that educational programs and other activities in

her parish usually draw similar ratios of women to men.

She and others agreed that parishes need to try harder to offer programs attractive to a broad cross-section of people, including men and young people.

"We are losing our youth to other denominations with strong youth programs," Porter said.

Other speakers also stressed the need for evangelization, renewal and healing in the Church.

Each of those efforts, however, has suffered from a lack of openness from Rome, observed Mary Gutierrez-Souza of Ithaca.

"It is difficult to evangelize, with the pronouncements coming out of Rome that seem to me and to others antithetical to the message of Jesus Christ," she said.

Nancy Telech of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads said she is relying on the Holy Spirit to bring about changes in the Church's current atmosphere. "We believe the Spirit is

alive and working in the Church today," she said. "We hope the hierarchy will listen and that they will change."

All three listening sessions have been incorporated into the diocesan Lenten Crossroads program, which focuses this year on the theme of baptismal dignity. Two more sessions were planned for Wednesday, March 25, at St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls and Saturday, March 28, at St. Theresa Parish in Rochester.

By April 8, Lester plans to submit a summary of responses from the diocese to NCCB officials in Washington. The deacon will also send individual reports and reflections he receives as well as audio tapes of the listening sessions. NCCB officials, in turn, will synthesize contributions from dioceses across the country into a report for use by synod delegates from the United States.

In the meantime, any parish or group that cannot send representatives to one of the listening sessions should contact Lester at the diocesan Pastoral Center, (716)328-3210.

## Workshop to focus on energy grants for schools

The prospect of a 50-90 percent return on energy-conservation expenditures is the drawing card James Magee hopes will bring school officials from throughout the diocese to a workshop he has scheduled for Thursday, April 9.

Set for 1:30 p.m. in the diocesan Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, the workshop promises to inform participants about the funds available through the federal Institutional Conservation Program and to show school representatives how the grant-proposal process works.

Magee, diocesan buildings and properties manager, has arranged for Phil Doti to conduct the workshop and to simulate grant-writing procedures. Doti is a professional engineer from Long Island who specializes in energy grants. He serves as a

consultant to the Archdiocese of New York, and has helped archdiocesan schools to obtain more than \$4 million in energy-conservation grants.

"Parishes with schools that are presently participating in any type of energy conservation program ... are going to be spending the money anyway," Magee observed, noting that for these schools, working with Doti would be an unexpected advantage.

All school levels — kindergarten through college — are eligible for the Institutional Conservation Program, Magee said. An upcoming program will offer grant money exclusively to elementary schools. Among the measures covered under the program are window replacement, insulation, roofing and new heating equipment.

As Magee explained the process, interested schools can sign up for Doti to conduct

preliminary energy audits of their buildings by August 1. Based upon these audits, schools may then apply for technical-assistance grants, which pay a portion of the costs of obtaining in-depth analyses "which spell out all your needs and the costs associated with them," Magee said. Such analyses, he explained, are thick volumes, detailing every measure that could be taken to improve the structure's energy efficiency.

Schools may then decide to go on to step three, applying for grants to actually have the work done. But, Magee noted, it isn't an all-or-nothing proposal. Program guidelines allow schools to choose which — if any — of the recommended measures they want to undertake.

"My intent is just to provide this information — to make it available to anybody who's interested," Magee said. "I feel you might as well take advantage of available money," he concluded. "Sometimes you have to pay to save."

For information on the workshop, call Magee at (716)328-3210.

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Sister Mary Bryan Ford, RSM

St. Gregory's Church  
Marion, New York 7:30 P.M. - 9:15 P.M.

**Wednesday, April 1 WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE**

Sister Mary Lynch, SSJ

St. Mary Our Mother School  
Horseheads, New York 7:30 P.M. - 9:15 P.M.

**Tuesday, April 7 WHAT CATHOLICS BELIEVE ABOUT THE BIBLE**

Sister Jean Rodman, SSJ

St. Anthony's Church  
60 Lorimer Street  
Rochester, New York 7:30 P.M. - 9:15 P.M.

**Wednesday, April 8 MEMORY & HOPE!**

Dr. Marvin K. Mich

The U.S. economy today — reflections on the United States Bishops' Economic Pastoral.  
Finger Lakes Office of Religious Education  
110 Exchange Street  
Geneva, New York 7:30 P.M. - 9:15 P.M.

**Wednesday, May 6 MEMORY & HOPE!**

Dr. Marvin K. Mich

The U.S. economy today — reflections on the United States Bishops' Economic Pastoral  
St. John the Baptist Church  
Lake Street  
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