

## 'New Wineskins' author to speak at discipleship seminar

When Sister Sandra Schneiders, IHM, comes to the Rochester diocese to speak on the Church of the near future, audience members will have already had access to an astute reference guide to the recent past. Thanks to a 309-page paperback entitled *New Wineskins: Re-Imagining Religious Life Today*, lay and religious listeners alike should have a clear idea of the forces for change and renewal that have paved the way to both Sister Schneiders' perspective and the future of discipleship in a Church that has continued to evolve since Vatican II.

Sister Schneiders, the author of *New Wineskins* (Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 1986), will be here Saturday, May 16, for an all-day seminar co-sponsored by the diocesan Sisters' Council and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, according to Sister Beatrice Ganley, who offers her own commentary on the book she calls "an appropriate summary of the collegial and experiential renewal process which has engaged religious congregations for the past 20 years."

The book is a compilation of essays written throughout the 1970s by Sister

Schneiders, an associate professor of New Testament and Christian spirituality and a member of the doctoral faculty in scripture and spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Many of the book's chapters originated as presentations to various conferences for religious, as well as to meetings and classes. As a result of ongoing discussions with such groups, the book has undergone a gradual process of modification and revision that makes it both a cogent summary of recent religious life and a guideline for the future.

For Schneiders, the history of renewal has been marked by what she terms "the priority of experience over theory and by the collaborative nature of the reflection." Having been through a process of sharing the perceptions experienced by a gospel community seeking the will of God, she posits, women religious have reached a pivotal or "frontier point" in their common spiritual life. In her book, Schneiders challenges religious congregations to undertake both "a long journey inward through a contemplative search for God" and "a long journey outward with a single-minded and passionate commitment to social justice."

In the affirmation provided by *Lumen Gentium* of the call to all Christians to cultivate the same holiness and charity, and the characterization in *Gaudium et Spes* of the Church as a community intimately linked

*'People do not put new wine into old wineskins ... Rather, they put new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.'*

Matthew 9:17

with human history, Schneiders sees a mandate for religious to relinquish both an elitist and an antagonistic stance toward other members of the Church.

"It is Schneiders' thesis that this demise of the theology of superiority and the reversal of an adversarial stance toward the world account for the entire gamut of visible changes in the past 20 years of religious congregations," observes Sister Ganley, who contends that the resulting re-examination of the meaning of vowed religious life has been the starting point for an ongoing dialogue between congregations and their formal networks of communication with the Vatican.

Although Sister Ganley notes that, because of its emphasis on religious vows, the book may be geared towards those in religious life, she believes that anyone struggling with the meaning of baptismal commitment today

will find pertinent material. "The nature of civil and ecclesiastical authority, the experience of conflict and dissension within the Church, the conflict of Christian values with other aspects of life in our society — these are things that all of us face as members of a Church journeying together towards the fulfillment of the reign of God," she says.

All members of the local Church are invited to attend two 45-minute presentations to be given by Sister Schneiders from 1:30-4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the SSJ motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester. Her topic will be "Discipleship in the '90s: Shaping the Church of the Future." Interested lay people are also welcome at that evening's presentation, which will take place at the same location from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sister Schneiders' evening topic will be "Permanent Commitment in a Dangerous Society: the Future of Religious Life" — a subject she discusses at length in the fourth chapter of *New Wineskins*.

"If there is direction to be found in Sandra Schneiders' discussion of some of these difficult topics, if there is guidance for the turbulent time to come," comments Sister Ganley, "it is contained in her repeated reliance upon belief at the heart of Christian discipleship."

The May 16 seminar is free and open to the public. For further information, contact Sister Joan McDowell at (716)586-1000.



Sr. Schneiders

### Spring musical to be staged at Cardinal Mooney in May

The 25th anniversary performance of the Cardinal Mooney High School spring musical is scheduled for the high school auditorium's stage May 1-9.

This year's musical, entitled "Mountain Madness," is a revival of the original play by James Madigan, which was Mooney's first stage production. "Mountain Madness" combines songs from seven Broadway musicals, including "Lil Abner," "Plain and Fancy" and "Big River," together with a narrative about a city girl (played by senior Donna Argento) who suddenly finds herself in the backwoods community of "Cornpone Corners." She teaches five male cousins all about "goin' courtin'," and when city girl meets country boy Cal (Steve Brien), romance, songs, dances, and hillbilly humor ensue.

During the performance, a barn will be built on stage by cast members. Another humorous

highlight will be a duet featuring sophomore Kevin Aman and a live baby pig.

Also cast as principal players are Tom Anschutz, Mickey Haugh, Mike Pilot, Greg Czarniak, Chris Czarniak, Jason Di Ponzio, Sue O'Gara, Cindy Neal, Lucy Gallucci, John Dudley, Rich Carbone, Jason Brien and Michelle Giancurcio. Several chickens, a rabbit, a goat and a lamb will also appear onstage.

"Mountain Madness" will run Friday and Saturday evenings, May 1 and May 2, as well as May 8 and May 9, at 8 p.m. A special senior citizens' dress rehearsal is planned for Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m., with free admission for seniors.

Ticket prices are \$5. All seating is reserved, and tickets may be reserved by calling (716) 865-1000.

Original cast members of the first production of "Mountain Madness" are invited to contact Bob Smyth at the school for complimentary tickets.

### Mendon parish to mark John Hayes' ordination

The Reverend Mr. John Hayes will be ordained to the priesthood Saturday, May 9, at St. Catherine's Parish, Mendon, where he has served as a deacon-intern for the past year.

The son of Anne H. Hayes of Lakeview Terrace and the late Brian F. Hayes, he attended Holy Rosary Parish in Rochester. After graduating from Holy Rosary School and the Aquinas Institute, Deacon Hayes attended the University of Cincinnati, where he earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1979.

Prior to entering Immaculate Conception Seminary in 1982, Deacon Hayes taught children with learning disabilities, as well as Vietnamese and Laotian children who were learning English as a second language. At the seminary in New Jersey, he earned a master's degree in pastoral theology. He also served as president of the seminary council in his fourth year.

Among his ministerial experiences, Deacon Hayes counts field assignments at

### Club sets benefit fashion show

The Catholic Women's Club of Rochester has scheduled its annual benefit luncheon and fashion show for Saturday, May 9, at the Burgundy Basin Inn. The event will begin with a social hour at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12:30 p.m. Members of the club will model spring fashions from the Caren Charles Shop in Pittsford.

Proceeds from the luncheon will be used to provide scholarship assistance to girls in Catholic high schools.

### Rochester center needs volunteers to assist in accessibility survey

The Rochester Center for Independent Living needs volunteers to assist in an accessibility survey of Rochester-area buildings. Volunteers will collect information on curb cuts and ramps, measure doorways and note bathrooms accessible to disabled individuals.

The "Access Rochester Guide" directory will be a routinely updated guidebook of buildings and businesses in the greater Rochester area.

A training session is planned for Thursday, April 30, from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at RCIL, 464 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester.

The project is being funded in part by Easter Seals. Refreshments will be provided. A sign language interpreter will also be available, if given prior notice.

Call (716)546-6990 for information.

### Annual spring sale, supper slated for Sisters of Mercy in Rochester

The Sisters of Mercy will host their annual spring sale and homecooked roast beef supper on May 2 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m., at their motherhouse and Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester. For the first time, a garage sale will be held this year in the high school gym from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Supper tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. For ticket information, call the motherhouse at (716)482-5442. Tickets for adults are \$5; for senior citizens, \$4; and for children under 10, \$2.50.

Proceeds are earmarked for High Acres, the congregation's retreat and meeting house in Geneva.

Features of the sale will be homemade bread, baked goods, sweets, gift items and handcrafts.

The sale committee is being chaired by Sister Ann Cullen.

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