

Students

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ing at the various parishes where she has served as director of religious education. "I never had an ivory-tower moment," she said. "I've had a field-education experience for all 14 years, with the Holy Spirit for a mentor."

From the first, however, her education demanded a financial sacrifice. A Sister of Mercy helped by directing a bequest from her family toward helping Mack and other lay women pay for theological education. "There are a lot of ways to spend money, and I have no complaints about spending it on theological education," Mack said. "When I see somebody buying a silk blouse, I think 'Oh, that's a third of a course.'"

In spite of being one of very few women at St. Bernard's Seminary during the early 1970s, Mack said she never felt isolated. But then she doesn't recall having the time or inclination to participate in seminary life beyond its academic side.

Nor has she grown bitter over the death of progress toward the day when she can realize her vocation as a priest. "I love my ministry, but I do look forward to the day when I am ordained," she said. "I see no problem with this happening when I am aged ... But our Church is being shortchanged the longer this is put off."

Dumont more readily acknowledges her pain at the status quo. She recalled, for instance, attending a St. Bernard's alumni reunion Mass at which she was virtually the only non-priest. When she chose a seat in the chapel, her fellow alumni gave her a wide berth. "I had gone with every intention of being in joy," she said. "Instead, I felt the sting of alienation and rejection. When I prayed with my heart, I felt one way, but when I looked with my eyes, I felt another way."

She admits that accepting an all-male hierarchy is a struggle she hasn't won. "I have had to ask myself whether I am prejudiced against the male hierarchy of the Church," Dumont said. "The thing is, I have never known God to be anything but gentle, patient, tender and incredibly tolerant with me. I think the least I can do is give some of those things back to God's Church."

Syracuse center lists fall workshop schedule

The Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center in Syracuse will offer seven workshops of continuing education for pastoral ministry this fall.

Titles, dates and leaders for the planned programs are: "Burnout Prevention Strategies for People Who Work with People," Monday, Sept. 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the Rev. Bruce M. Hartung, Ph.D.;

"Pastoral Care in and through Preaching: the Soul of Black Preaching," Saturday, Sept. 26, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., the Rev. Robert M. Franklin, Ph.D.;

"Spiritual Direction Seminar [Supervision Group]," Friday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Father James Dolan, SJ, and the Rev. Paul A. Metzler, STM;

"Bar[Ba]l Mitzvah: A Family Passage," Saturday, Nov. 1, 1-4 p.m., Rabbi Gershon Blackmore;

"Pastoral Care in and through Preaching: Integrating the Roles of Counselor and Preacher," Thursday and Friday, Nov. 5 and 6, 7-10 p.m. and 9 a.m.-3 p.m., the Rev. J. Randall Nichols, Ph.D.;

"Becoming an Askable Pastor," Friday, Nov. 20, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Craig W. Snyder, Ph.D.

For information or registration, call or write the center at 324 University Avenue, Syracuse, N.Y. 13210, (315)472-4471.

Youth pro-life meeting slated for Niagara Falls, Canada

Young people between the ages of 13 and 26 are invited to the Loretta Retreat Center in Niagara Falls, Canada, for the International Youth Pro-Life Conference September 4-6.

The conference will feature nationally known speakers and workshops on such topics as abortion alternatives, euthanasia, developing youth leadership and starting teen pro-life groups.

The cost for food, lodging and registration is \$90. For more information, contact Tim Bagley, c/o National Right-to-Life, 419 7th St. N.W., Suite 402, Washington, D.C., 20004.

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