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## Visitation

### **Continued from Page 3**

a manual filing system to computers. Cauvel usually asks parishes to conduct a census using a visitation card designed with diocesan help, in order to simplify the entering of data. "A poorly designed card could take them five times longer to enter than a well-designed one," she said.

How parishioners respond to the needs survey can be crucial to a parish program's future. Christ the King Parish in Rochester decided to open a pre-school program in September of this year after it conducted a PVP last spring. Pre-school teacher Regina Siesto roughly esti-

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mated that more than 90 percent of those surveyed, including senior citizens, said the parish needed the program. "Christ the King is growing." Siesto said. "We have many young families?

Another parish, St. Bridget's of East Bloomfield, may close St. Joseph's, its mission church in West Bloomfield, if the results of its September PVP show that the mission is no longer needed. Father John J. Phillips, pastor, noted that St. Joseph's currently has only one Mass, on Sunday, each week.

After the door-to-door survey is complete. parishioners who live outside the parish boundaries are asked to complete survey cards following weekend Masses. St. Boniface plans to collect most of its data after Masses on three dates next March, unlike most parishes, which

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opt for collecting the bulk of their responses door-to-door.

"We felt that (by doing it this way) you're likely to get all the people that attend regularly," Keenan said.

Participation in either form of surveying depends in large part on advance publicity. Yet another committee is responsible for getting the word out to the general public through newspapers, bulletins and posters, while pastors of non-Catholic denominations are informed through letters from the pastor.

Disciples are instructed to only survey Catholic households, ensuring good relations with non-Catholic churches warv of rival evangelism. During its door-to-door survey in April, St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario even distributed a leaflet listing all its neighboring Protestant churches and ecumenical services for interested households.

When the survey is completed, visitation cards are collected and the information is entered into computer data files. Parishes have the option of using their own computer systems, or filing their data on the diocesan system at the Pastoral Center in Gates. If a parish doesn't own a system prior to their survey, the diocese can assist in purchasing one, and will provide software and staff training for free, according to Joan Zaia, director of Information Systems and Research.

The diocese's assistance in implementing the PVP throughout its area has earned it respect from those who have participated. Father Bayer, in particular, has been noted for his work.

"You really could see that over the years, he had excellent facilitation skills," said Richard Dudeck, a parishioner who worked on Christ the King's PVP.

Father Robert G. Kreckel, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario, said, "I was much happier with the census than I thought I was going to be?"

### **Puppet show**

Continued from Page 1 using condoms to prevent AIDS infection from multiple sex partners.

"It's very quick to offer the option (of premarital sex); We want to be quick to offer the ideal? Wegman said, noting the diocese sent a directive to diocesan schools last spring after the diocese declined Kids on the Block's offer to perform the show for seventh graders. Neither the diocese nor Kids on the Block suggested any changes in the script for Catholic school performances, Wegman said.

Ginni Starks, community relations officer for Central Trust Co., said "(the show) indicates we believe in monogamous relationships - not pre-marital sex." She said the show suggests cuddling and hugging as alternatives to intercourse for youth and also said that parents have the right to ask that their children not see the show.

Wegman said that the diocese is offering an alternative educational program for AIDS education in the seventh grade. This program was developed by the New York State Catholic Conference to supplement the New York state **Education Department's AIDS Instructional** Guide for grades kindergarten through 12.



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