

Et cetera

Renew

Continued from page 6

church teachings; material for each of the seasons quotes the magisterium on the theme of the season; a discussion of the role of priests and bishops has been added to balance the fourth season's discussion of the priesthood of the laity; and material from the U.S. Catholic Conference emphasizing the celebratory and sacrificial aspects of the Eucharist has been added in a supplement containing liturgical suggestions and information.

Hamme pointed out that the added emphasis on the magisterium and the communal aspects of the church — along with the individual, group and liturgical activities that comprise Renew — balances "the personal side with participation with the larger church," and "regularly orients people back to the church."

In the Northern Cayuga Cluster, Renew has already begun to have that effect.

"The idea of Renew is permeating everything we do," observed Deacon Stephen Graff, pastoral assistant in the cluster. He noted that even before the cluster decided to begin the program, parishioners were familiar with Renew because of the proximity of the Syracuse diocese. In ad-

dition, a number of parishioners had moved to the cluster from the neighboring diocese, and had already been through the program. He noted that the Renew team had ordered books and materials for the 100 people they expected to sign up for small groups. One hundred ninety-two people signed up.

Joanne Magin, who will coordinate the small groups at St. Patrick's in Cato, said she has already seen a number of people become more active, and she predicts that the numbers will increase. "I think that people who are most active (in the cluster) now will be active in the first (season)," she said. As other people see the effects of the program on those involved, "I think you'll find that it's going to mushroom as it proceeds."

The Renew team in the cluster anticipate that the program will help enrich the spiritual lives of those who are already active in their parishes, and will help draw out other people who had not yet found a way to become more active.

"The whole basis of Renew is an opening of ourselves and our lives to God in prayer," Father Moorby said. He noted that the program will complement what the cluster — and the rest of the diocese — will be undergoing through the Commitment to Ministry process. The latter is

designed to help lay people reflect upon their baptismal call to leadership and shared ministry in the church. Renew will help cluster parishioners prepare spiritually for changing roles in the church, he said.

"I think people hear the call of God to use their gifts and minister to the church," Father Moorby said. "New ways of carrying out ministry are needed. I see (Renew) as a positive way of fulfilling church teachings and of what lay people are called to do in Vatican II."

Closing proposal

Continued from page 1

About 150 people from St. James Parish attended an evening meeting with Father Mulligan on Monday, Jan. 30, according to Sister Theresa Ruddy, school principal. She said the school had been targeted for closing because it is located in an area with a small number of school-age children.

Also, one of the criteria used by the Center for Governmental Research to determine whether or not a school should remain open was how it contributed to the overall balance of Catholic schools in the quadrant. St. James, on Brett Road, is located southeast of nearby St.

Ambrose School, on Empire Boulevard. Thus, the quadrant proposal states "there are too many schools in this area," she said.

Parish representatives argued that the school should remain open because it has enough space to accommodate the two sections needed for each grade in the K-6 configuration required by the quadrant plan. The school currently uses seven rooms as homerooms, but has the capacity to house a total of 13, Sister Ruddy said.

Sister Ruddy also noted that the school is attached to the convent and church, which limits its adaptability to another use. She said she was optimistic about the school's chances of remaining open following the meeting.

Father Mulligan could not be reached for comment.

No meeting was needed with representatives from Annunciation School, according to Norm Dunn, parish administrator. The parish council met on Wednesday, Jan. 18, and concluded that it could offer no alternative to the proposed closing. "We would love to have our school open, but neither the school board or the council could come up with a viable plan to keep it open," he said.

Dunn said the parish hopes to house a child or adult day-care facility in the building once it is closed, but noted that neither plan has been considered at length.

The Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools will meet at an all-day session on Feb. 9 to discuss the proposal, Brother Walsh said. Following the meeting, the proposal, along with the commission's recommendations, will go to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who will issue a final decision on March 1.

Cenacle schedules retreat

The Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal will offer a weekend retreat, entitled "The Human Blossom in God's Garden," from February 3-5. The program will be led by Carol Montanti and Sister Barbara Heanue, r.c. Call 716/271-8755 for information.

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Correction

In last week's edition, it was incorrectly reported that the Martin Luther King Foundation made a \$1,000 donation to the Francis Hospitality Center. The funds were actually donated by the Martin Luther Foundation. The *Courier-Journal* regrets the error.

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