

## Young adults

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people in abusive relationships and don't know how to get out," Nele remarked. "We dealt with a number of people struggling — people unaware of their feelings ... people new to the area, trying to find a way into the parish; people struggling with their faith."

To help participants resolve their struggles, group members share their related experiences with each speaker. Nele observed that young adults need people with similar beliefs to reinforce their own self-worth in a world where they might not find many people who share their principles. "I think we're looking for a sense of belonging," he said.

## Education plan

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tuition rates stabilize, Father Graf supports a county-wide tuition rate. "We're going to price ourselves out of existence," he said, noting that while the rich can pay any tuition rate, and the poor are eligible for subsidies, the middle class could be squeezed out of Catholic schools by increasing rates.

In the not-too-distant future, Father Graf believes, parents may be forced to choose between sending their children to Catholic elementary schools or saving their money so that the children can later attend a Catholic high school. The pastor added that allowing quadrants to set their own tuition rate may encourage families to "jump" quadrants and send their children to schools with the lowest tuition rates, regardless of their location.

How each quadrant will be governed will be left in local hands in a subsequent draft, according to Pickett, who branded the current plan's governance proposal as much too specific.

While he declined to elaborate on particular changes, the commission chairman does expect to provide quadrants with more "rough guidelines" for setting up their governing boards.

For instance, Pickett said, the new proposal may allow each quadrant planning board to set up its own guidelines for membership on its governing boards. The original proposal, on the other hand, called for each governing board to contain two pastors, two principals, and a representative from each of the quadrant's parishes.

On May 1, the commission will meet with pastor and principal representatives as well as the chairwomen of the four Monroe County quadrant planning boards — northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest — to discuss a second draft of the community schools plan. Following that meeting, the second draft will be circu-

To help parishes foster that sense of belonging, the diocese created the Commission on Young Adult Ministry in 1982. The commission enjoyed a few years of growth, even earning diocesan budget allocations for a part-time coordinator and a newsletter.

But in 1986, diocesan budget cuts terminated the coordinator's position and the newsletter, forcing the commission to reassess its role. The commission now publishes a monthly flyer listing diocesan and parish young adult activities, including leadership training programs for young adult ministers.

Despite the budget setbacks of three years ago, the commission has remained active, according to Maureen Schnorr, co-chairwoman. Most recently, members hosted an all-day conference for diocesan

young adults in conjunction with Bishop's Day with Youth at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center on April 9.

The commission has had, "a lot of steps forward and a lot of steps backward," since it was founded, Schnorr said, but noted that she and Drexler both regard this as an era of growth, rather than demise, for young adult ministry.

Although many parishes may have started young adult ministries on their own, Schnorr said, the commission has raised awareness of the need for young adult ministry throughout the diocese.

Drexler added that he senses a revival of interest among young adults in Catholicism. At present, he is working with several parishes interested in forming new young adult groups.

Both chairpersons admitted that the

commission is hampered by lack of a full-time coordinator. "We're a volunteer commission, not a staff," Schnorr said. "No one's around when the pastoral center's open."

Nonetheless, the commission should not try to perpetuate itself, she said. Rather, it should work for the day when all parishes are involved in young adult ministry without any diocesan prompting. "Hopefully, we're going to build ourselves out of existence," Schnorr said with a laugh.

For more information on young adult ministry, contact the Commission on Young Adult Ministry at 716/328-3210, or write to: Commission on Young Adult Ministry, Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York, 14624.

lated among Monroe County parishes, and their reactions gauged. The second draft will then be given to Bishop Clark, who is scheduled to issue a final decision regarding the plan by the end of June.

Ultimately, Pickett said, the community schools plan should strengthen the weak without hurting the strong. "We don't want to put in place a plan that does harm to successful operations," he concluded.

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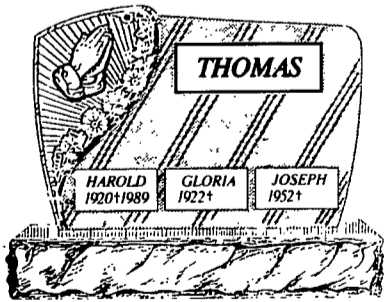
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