

# Inside

## Program predicaments

Declining enrollment has caused diocesan leaders to eliminate the Antioch retreat for young adults in favor of a less-structured approach. Meanwhile, unusually high summer demand and a drought in donations have combined to dry up resources at the South West Ecumenical Ministries food cupboard. Page 3.

## Summer solace



The Irish Children's Program introduces children of war-torn Northern Ireland — both Catholic and Protestant — to the highlights of U.S. teenage culture and to the possibility of interreligious harmony. For one Belfast girl, the visit has included baseball, Bon Jovi and everything in between. Page 8.

## Foregoing festival

Parishioners at St. Francis de Sales Church voted to experiment with an alternative fundraising method this year, and the unexpectedly high revenues produced by the endeavor may mean that the Geneva parish's annual festival will become a thing of the past. Page 9.

## Helping hands



An Elmira youth group took time out from summer vacation last week to paint the home of a single mother and her two children. By week's end, the youths had finished the house and strengthened their faith in God and in their ability to make a difference in others' lives. Page 12.

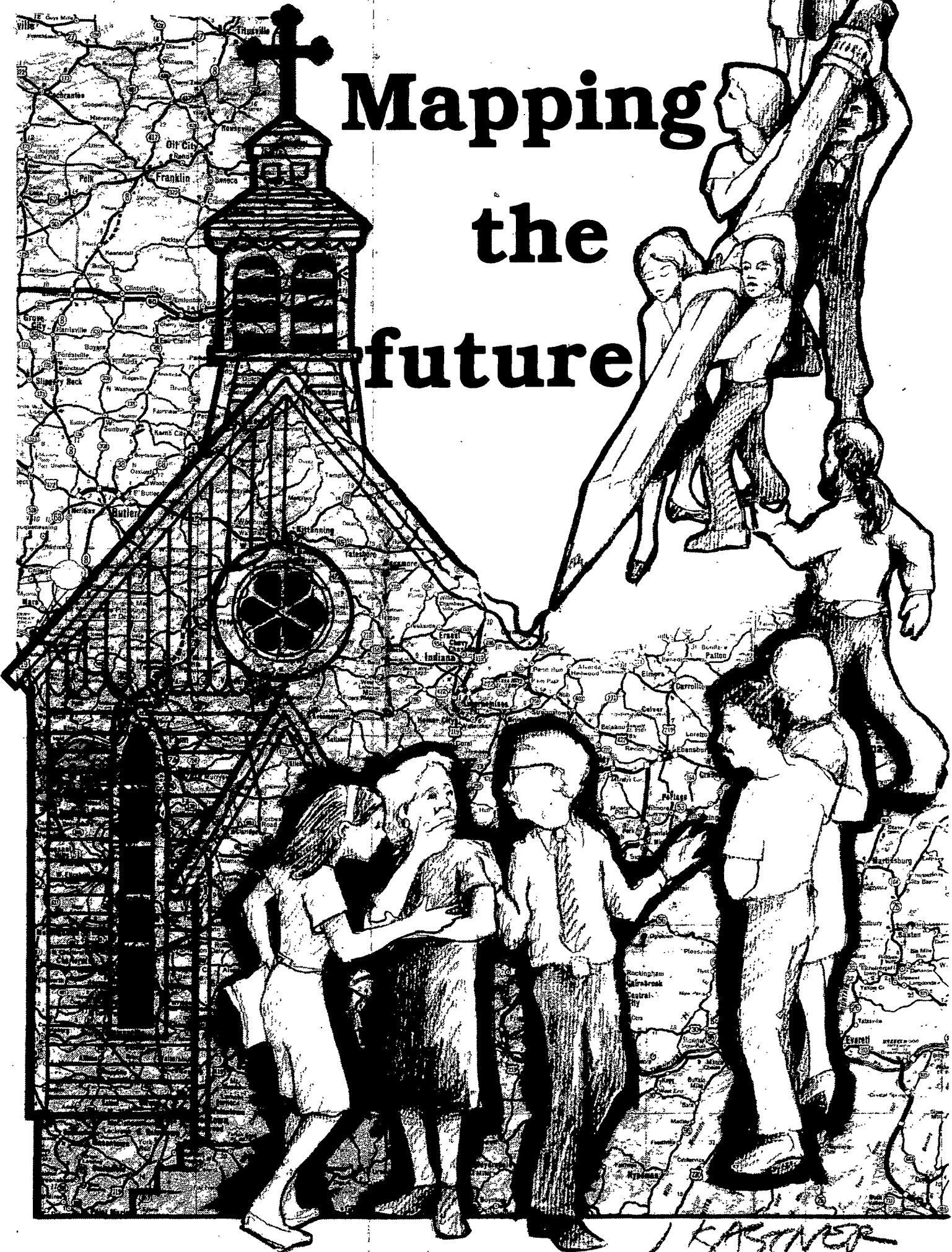
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# CATHOLIC COURIER

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## Mapping the future

## Process meets with indifference

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

This summer marks the midpoint of the training portion of the Commitment to Ministry process. For the nearly 1,000 people serving on parish reflection teams, the past year has been a busy one.

But for the vast numbers of parishioners not yet involved in assessing their parishes' staffing needs and options in light of declining numbers of priests in the Diocese of Rochester, the meaning of the effort seems remote at this time.

"The parish doesn't seem to be overly concerned with the process," observed Peter Golliver, a reflection-team member for Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Painted Post. "The attitude seems to be,

"No matter what happens, it probably won't be too bad."

At St. Stanislaus in Bradford, reflection-team members spoke at the Sunday liturgies and passed out questionnaires one weekend, receiving only about a dozen responses from approximately 60-100 people in attendance. "I can't understand it really," remarked team member Alice Hargrave. "Maybe they don't understand what's going on."

"I think some people think there will always be a priest here," observed William Maddock, parish council president and a member of the reflection team at St. Michael's, Lyons. "I think some people just don't think it's going to happen."

The experiences of reflection-team

members in these parishes is typical of those reported across the diocese, observed Deacon Claude Lester, who is directing the training phase of the Commitment to Ministry Process. He speculated that this seeming indifference will end when the reflection teams begin educating their fellow parishioners.

"What the parish reflection-team members are finding are what people involved in church ministry have found," Deacon Lester said. "Just because there's a need doesn't mean people are going to rally around it. You have to reach out to people and educate them about it."

Self-education is what reflection team members are primarily concerned with at

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