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and New Testaments, and social-justice themes in Scripture.

Diocesan Catholics in professional fields are also looking to examine their work lives in the light of their church's teachings on such issues as abortion, euthanasia and economic justice, Mancini said. One response to that need will be found in two retreats sponsored by Mancini's department and conducted by the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Ministry Team at the SSJ Motherhouse in Rochester.

One retreat, scheduled for Oct. 10, is for nurses; the other, slated for Nov. 14, will be for teachers. Three more retreats — for young married couples, middle-aged and elderly Catholics — are slated for the spring.

Mancini said these new adult retreats will allow participants "an opportunity of being in touch with the way the Gospel informs your life and your work. The idea is that your stance as a Christian makes a difference."

In her new position, Mancini also will be guiding one of the most important components of the WICP — the certification of catechetical leaders. Last February, the diocese issued a set of guidelines for catechetical certification, which called for all individuals working as catechetical leaders after July 1, 1989, to take part in 10 hours of ongoing formation each year, and to be certified through or enrolled in an approved certification program.

Under the plan, religious-education personnel must earn certification for work in a specific parish, or they become certified to work in any diocesan parish. Requirements for parish certification will stipulate the knowledge and experience needed to fill a particular parish job; diocesan certification

will require candidates to work with assigned mentors in developing individual educational-growth plans, which will be reviewed by the religious-education office yearly.

These certification guidelines were developed to meet Bishop Clark's demand that every parish have a qualified catechetical leader. Because of existing qualifications, 35 leaders were automatically certified in July, Sister Binsack said. To enable other ministers to meet these requirements, the office is sponsoring 450 hours of courses to be taught at various locations throughout the diocese, Mancini said.

Whereas the religious-education department helps catechists get started on the road to professional certification, the Department of Continuing Education is the resource for those looking to update their skills, according to Judy Kollar, department director.

This fall, Kollar's office will work with DeLoyaza Associates, a consulting firm specializing in professional skills development, to present a series of workshops on work-place skills. Developed in response to needs expressed by parish staff members, the workshops will focus on on-time management, problem solving, interpersonal skills and conflict management. Kollar noted that parish staff members suffer from difficulties in time management and co-worker relationships just like their peers in the secular world. "Everybody is very, very busy," she remarked. "It's difficult to set personal priorities. People feel overburdened."

Kollar commented that the new workshops will also give people helpful advice in solving conflicts that can arise out of personality differences. "We're trying to work out how to deal with each other in a Christian context," she remarked.

Limited to 30 participants, two sets of the four workshops will be presented at the Cenacle Retreat House in Rochester and at

St. Mary's Parish Center in Bath.

Both Kollar and Mancini have found that Catholics increasingly seek guidance in living a Christian life in the modern world. "I really believe that right now we're seeing a revival in things Catholic and that people are concerned about living a Catholic life," Kollar said. "Whenever people are faced with serious things, like nuclear war and the environment, I think that it makes people become more reflective about what their life is about."

Mancini made a similar observation. "The church is challenging adults to recognize that formation in faith is not finished when you're 17 and 18," she said.

The two directors' comments are bolstered by the remarks Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, head of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, made during this year's Vatican "summit" meeting between Pope John Paul II and 35 American bishops.

Drawing on statements in the pope's 1989 apostolic exhortation to the laity, *Christifidelis Laici*, the cardinal said: "The experience of living in a democratic society where citizens assume responsibility for the life of their local community, in the world of business, in educational and cultural institutions, etc., can lead to adopting in the church a sociological model of human-historical democracy."

Cardinal Pironio went on to observe that "there has been a wide-spread blossoming of non-ordained ministries both in the universal church and, notably, in the church in the United States."

The cardinal also praised the American bishops for their emphasis on youth ministry. Such an emphasis is necessary because young Catholics, both in public and Catholic schools, are pondering troublesome questions, according to Patrick Fox, director of the Department of Youth Ministry. Since the early '70s, youth ministry has become a priority in many parishes because the climate in which young Catholics

grow up has changed, he said.

"When I was a kid, youths didn't always involve themselves with religious education programs," Fox said. "You went to Catholic school, or to CCD, and maybe you belonged to the CYO for recreation and sports stuff."

Today's youths, Fox asserted, need more than one hour of weekly high school religion classes or Monday night CCD to prepare them to grapple with such problems as drug and alcohol abuse, depression, stress and suicide. To help today's teens deal with these and other dilemmas, the youth ministry department is planning several one- and two-hour workshops to be presented at parishes this year, he noted.

The youth ministry office will also re-vamp its entire retreat program this fall, in response to input from a survey taken earlier this year of diocesan youth leaders and ministers.

"Some of the things we were doing have seen their day," Fox said. "We needed to update and renew some of the programs." One example of this updating effort is changing the titles of the various retreats from such names as Genesis, Jeremiah, Emmaus and Teen Seminar to simple grade-level designations.

Fox asserted that the old names may have turned off potential participants who were stumped about their meaning, and observed that the new generic labels will be less threatening to teens who might lack the Scriptural background to understand the old names' significance.

Although youth ministry is generally perceived as serving only teens who attend public schools, Fox pointed out that parish youth groups are now attracting an increasing number of Catholic-school students who want more contact with religion than they get in class. "Youth ministry is being called to do work with Catholic schools," he observed, noting that his office is working on individual counseling and retreats for students in Catholic high schools.

Ironically, youth ministry — often the newest budget item in parish financial reports — may also be the first to be cut or eliminated when funds are tight, said Fox, who predicted that during the next few years many parishes may be forced to combine their religious-education coordinator and youth minister into one position, or join youth-ministry clusters with other parishes in order to make scarce funds go further.

But in spite of budgetary constraints, most parishes now see youth ministry as an essential part of educating young Catholics in their faith, Fox said. "It's a more wholistic approach than people's idea of youth ministry as youth group on Sunday night," he noted.

Fox's desire for a "wholistic" approach reflects Sister Binsack's vision of diocesan education in general. "All these signs of the times call for us to have a well-integrated catechetical plan," she said. "They call us to develop new models of catechesis that reach all in our diocese."

Group to present 'Narnia'

ROCHESTER — The Faestival Youth Theatre will perform the musical *Narnia*, at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 11-12, and at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12. All performances will take place at Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Avenue.

Narnia is based on the novel *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. Tickets — \$4 for general admission, and \$3.50 for senior citizens and children — will be available at the door. For more information, call Nazareth Academy at 716/458-8583.

Pre-K program still open

ROCHESTER — St. James School, 119 Brockley Road, has a few openings left in its two-day program for 3-year-olds, and in the three-day program for 4-year-olds. Both programs start in September. For information, call the school office at 716/482-1523 between 9-12 p.m.

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