

Synod

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Sept. 23-25, 1988. They approved 65 directives, as well as a right-to-life resolution.

The parishes of the archdiocese are now in the process of implementing those directives, Father Bedford said. Cardinal O'Connor has called for them to be phased in, with special emphasis in 1989 being devoted to five areas: creation of parish councils; adult education; Sunday distribution of communion to the sick; forming programs to reduce racial tensions or to serve the needs of the poor; and the establishment of more youth groups.

Parishes will be evaluated on a yearly basis to assess their progress in implementing the decrees.

The synod was intended to set a direction for the archdiocese and to "energize" the people of the diocese, Father Bedford explained. "A lot of people are hoping that this will be a rising tide that will raise the boats."

In addition, the priest noted, the published directives of the synod will "tell everybody that the cardinal has an agenda that is based on what the synod told him."

Bishop Garcia likewise said that he hopes Tabasco's synod — which is only in its beginning phases — will "create a church that is renewed, that is committed, that can face the future."

As the Diocese of Rochester prepares for its future, Father Hart said, a synod will help pull together such efforts as the Commitment to Ministry process and the work of the Five Year Financial Planning Process Task Force, and begin moving forward in other areas.

Father Hart also linked the synod to



Archdiocese of New York delegates approved 65 directives and a right-to-life resolution at a synod last January. Chris Sheridan/Catholic New York

Bishop Clark's 10th anniversary as Bishop of Rochester this year. "I think this comes after the bishop has been here 10 years and wants to look ahead to the next 10 years," he suggested.

Father Appelby also observed that a

synod would further Bishop Clark's pattern of consulting the people of the diocese about issues and future directions. "He sets the direction, but it's been his style for a number of years to turn to the people for their input," the priest said.

Moreover, Father Hart concluded, when the people of the diocese speak clearly on issues and "as the bishop meets with other bishops, as he meets with the Bishop of Rome, he speaks with a greater force than his own opinion."

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