



August 16, 1990

My dear people,

September always brings beginnings: schools open, religious-education programs start, programs for people of all ages crowd our church calendars. This year is no exception. Our diocesan church is strengthened by the emergence of broad-based catechetical ministries; we as church are committed to providing many and varied opportunities for faith formation for all the people of God.

The experiences of the past year have led all of us to a deeper understanding of our vision of Catholic formation and education in our diocese. This fall will see the establishment of the diocesan Christian Formation and Education Council to oversee total Catholic education. In the Northeast Quadrant of Monroe County, a Catholic junior high will open with an enrollment of 350 students serving 17 parishes. The organizational plans for the Southeast and Southwest quadrants of Monroe County will be made public.

Meanwhile, the three clusters of the Southern Tier, Finger Lakes and Genesee Valley will receive from their local areas plans that ensure catechetical opportunities for people of all ages. Hundreds of hours of diocesan formation courses will be scheduled for professional ministers, teachers, catechists, RCIA ministers and other interested adults.

All of these activities reflect the vital and comprehensive vision of educational ministries within our diocesan church. These ministries rely on the commitment and dedication of hundreds of people, both volunteers and professionals. Principals, teachers, catechetical leaders, catechists, youth ministers, and members of parish and diocesan staffs labor tirelessly to strengthen our educational ministries. The dedication of these people is humbling, for I know that their lives and their work reflect both their commitment to Christ and their belief that the church must provide for all people opportunities for growth in faith.

This year will be a year of challenge. We will be called to a spirit of cooperation, dedication and prayerfulness. As we grow in our understanding of ongoing faith formation for all, let us continue to pray, to support and to encourage each other.

Be assured of my prayers for your ministry. With every good wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ

Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



August 16, 1990

Dear Friends,

Since 1987, we as a diocese have been committed to the vision of a Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan. The Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan provides opportunities for all people to grow in their faith and respond to the Gospel message. This vision has provided the foundation for the creation of a Catholic school system and for the commitment of resources and personnel for varied catechetical programs.

This fall we see the fruits of our labors in a number of developments -- from the creation of catechetical plans for the three clusters outside Monroe County to the ongoing certification process for catechetical leaders and youth ministers; from the opening of a new junior high school in the Northeast Quadrant of Monroe County to the implementation of new governance structures in the other Monroe County quadrants. All of these developments are signs of hope for our future in education and ministry.

These are years of challenge and transition. There are few models for what we undertake. Yet the spirit of cooperation and love with which we as church approach these difficult times is a measure of our commitment to the vision for catechesis expressed by John Paul II: "to develop, with God's help, an as yet initial faith, and to advance in fullness and to nourish day by day the Christian life of the faithful, young and old" (*Catechesi Tradendae*, #20).

That vision demands new models and new emphasis on faith formation for all of us. It calls for a stable Catholic school system to ensure quality education for those who choose that for their children. It requires our openness and dedication to the process of creating the best possible climate for a Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan to flourish. The educational vision of the church exacts our attention and commitment. Let us pray that as the new academic year begins, each of us will renew our commitment to Catholic formation and education in our diocese.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Binsack, RSM
Director, Division of Education

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SAVE THIS DATE . . .
SUNDAY, SEPT. 30TH

N.E.Q. ... a gathering of friends
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

- 2 P.M. Prayer Service with Bishop Clark
- 3 P.M. Family Picnic Games D.J.

Northeastern Catholic Jr. High
125 Kings Highway South

Northeast Quadrant Catholic Community Schools