

BACK TO SCHOOL



Illustration by Matthew Morgaine

Adults embark on Bible trek

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Since converting to Catholicism after her marriage almost two decades ago, Marty Foti has journeyed far and wide in the scriptural world from which her faith's roots emanate.

Last year, the 44-year-old Foti moved to Pittsford from Denver, Colo., with her husband, Tony, and their teenage son. One of the first things the Fotis did upon joining St. Louis Church was to explore the adult religious-education programs the parish offers.

"Well, I just wanted to do something," Foti said of her reasons for enrolling in a course on St. Luke. The class was presented at St. Louis by the Academy of

Scripture, a program of the diocesan Office of Religious Education. "Our church (in Denver) had a lot of adult-education classes I took," she added.

Foti, who has studied Scripture for the past 15 years, particularly liked the teaching style of Deacon Thomas J. Driscoll, parish minister of Christian formation and instructor for the course on St. Luke.

"He is a person that is excited about learning, and that enthusiasm and excitement is so contagious," she said of Driscoll.

In addition to his other duties at the parish, Driscoll has served as one of several instructors in the Academy of Scripture. The Diocese of Rochester established the Academy of Scripture in

the fall of 1989 to help catechists, Bible-study leaders and ministers in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults to meet their formation requirements. The courses run 10 hours each, and academy directors note that they are designed to give students a basic foundation in scriptural study.

The academy offers a Level I program consisting of a 10-course sequence in the Old and New Testaments, with further in-depth studies offered in the Level II program. Students pay \$15 for each course, and class size ranges from 25 to 30 people per course.

Starting this fall, St. Louis will be one of three diocesan parishes to fund Bible-study courses during the school year.

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