

BACK TO SCHOOL

Academy escorts adults on trek through Bible

Continued from page 1A

The courses, formerly offered by the Academy of Scripture, also will be financed by St. Mary's in Bath and St. Alphonsus in Auburn.

Diocesan budgetary restrictions in education this year forced the Office of Religious Education to limit academy offerings for the coming school year to seven courses, according to Maribeth Mancini, director of the office.

In its first two years of existence, the academy offered 10-12 courses a year at various sites throughout the diocese, she said.

Liz Webster, coordinator of the academy, estimated that it costs the diocese \$200-400 to sponsor each course. The cost varies due to the amount of mileage reimbursement paid to an instructor and the cost of his or her teaching contract, she said.

Despite this year's cutbacks, Mancini was optimistic that the academy offerings might continue to expand if more parishes are willing to sponsor courses.

"Parishes that have seen the value of sponsoring the courses are willing to sponsor them themselves," Mancini observed. In exchange for parishes' commitments to finance the classes, the Office of Religious Education provides parishes with curricula and advertising for the courses, she said.

Each Lent for the last 10 years, St. Louis Parish has offered its own adult-education courses on the Bible. Driscoll observed that Catholics have become more interested in studying Scripture during the last decade.

"I think there's a lot of peo-



Philip Archer/Photo intern
Deacon Thomas Driscoll of St. Louis Church in Pittsford has taught several courses in Scripture over the last eight years. He noted that he takes a college-level approach to his classes, creating a challenging atmosphere for his adult students.

'The goal of the Academy of Scripture is to help us to journey into the world of the Bible, and begin to break open that Word that has come from God.'

From the 1990-91 Academy of Scripture flyer published by the Diocesan Office of Religious Education

ple searching to find a healthy spirituality," he said, explaining that many of his students are adults studying the Bible at their leisure. "For some people, Scripture informs them," he added.

Although the Academy of Scripture was intended for ministers in formation, its classes are open to all interested adults. Driscoll noted that such students make up the bulk of his Scripture classes, which also include some Catholic-school teachers brushing up

on the Bible.

Driscoll stressed that he treats his students to a college-level course in Scripture that doesn't shy away from taking on controversial debates.

"I encourage people to bring different translations of the Bible, and we compare," he said, adding that students seem to relish the challenges he sets forth. "I think what people want is content — not to be preached at."

One such student is Steven

P. Danner, who has taken a number of Scripture courses for enjoyment through the years. A St. Louis parishioner, Danner explained that he needs to approach the Bible in a logical, academic manner because his faith has been shaped the same way.

"In my personal situation," he said, "I don't seem to have been blessed with innate faith, blind faith." Danner said studying the Bible helps him understand what the priest is talking about in homilies at Sunday

Mass. "(Scripture study) gives the parameters — what's the picture around the reading," he added.

For example, Danner pointed out that many of Jesus' parables were rooted in the farm life of ancient Palestine, a context that can be lost in the brief Sunday readings. "We don't necessarily, in today's everyday life, relate to that very well," he said.

Barbara Ayer, religious-education coordinator at St. Mary's in Bath, agreed with Danner's assessment of the value of Scripture study for the adult Catholic. "It puts Sunday readings into context for people," she said.

Actually, putting Catholic faith in a scriptural context should be a continual pursuit for all adults in the church, according to Webster.

"I've always felt adult education is very important because faith formation is a life-long journey with God," she said. "If we as Catholic people are going to grow in our faith, one way is through Scripture."

EDITORS' NOTE: For information on the Academy of Scripture, contact the Office of Religious Education at 716/328-3210.

Organization seeks area host families

American International Student Exchange is seeking host families for exchange students from Scandinavia, Europe, South America and Japan for the 1991-92 school year.

The students are between the ages of 15-18, are carefully screened and have studied English for several years. They come from a variety of lifestyles and cultures, and are anxious to learn about life in the United States.

All students have spending money and medical insurance. Host families provide room and board for the student as well as a supportive family atmosphere.

For information, call toll free: 1-800-SIBLING (1-800-742-5464.)

Learn to tell your

宿泊室 from your 航空券

Take "Survival Japanese" at Fisher. It's just one of over 200 intriguing, engaging, enlightening credit and non-credit courses this fall. Finish up your degree or take a class just for your own personal satisfaction. Classes start August 26. Call 385-8317 for more information.

Continuing Education.

ST. JOHN
FISHER
COLLEGE

3690 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14618

Rochester Association of Performing Arts

DANCE • THEATRE • PIANO • VOICE
PRE-SCHOOL - PERFORMING ARTS NURSERY SCHOOL

For children and adults of all ages

Register Now!
(716)442-0190



Located in the
Auditorium Center
875 East Main Street
Rochester, New York 14605

Nazareth College Arts Center 1991-92 Season Bringing Rochester A Full Plate of Family Fare

"The Velveteen Rabbit" — the friendship between a boy and a beautiful stuffed rabbit is celebrated in this whimsical production of the heartwarming story

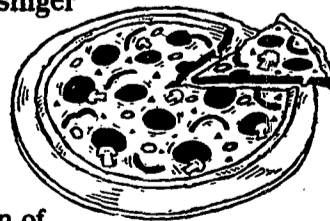
Tom Chapiri — the popular folk singer will perform songs from his three family albums, including his latest "Mother Earth"

"The Story of Babar" — the little elephant explores life in Paris in this charming adaptation of the beloved classic

Recommended for children Pre-K to fourth grade and their families.

For information about school performances call 586-2483.

 Nazareth College Arts Center Call 586-2420 for a new Season Brochure



GREECE MONTESSORI SCHOOL




Celebrating our
20th Anniversary

FALL OPENINGS
AVAILABLE

For Ages 2.9 yrs. to 4.6 yrs.

Please Call 227-4830
for appointment

 300 Chesterton Rd.
Rochester, NY 14626