

# Restructuring alters family-related ministries

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Diocese of Rochester's move toward greater parish responsibility — both as an overall philosophy and to accommodate a projected 1992-93 budgetary shortfall — will mean a different approach to marriage preparation in the diocese.

The reorganization will also drastically affect ministry to the divorced, separated and bereaved in the Finger Lakes region.

In the restructuring plan unveiled early last month, diocesan officials announced that some of the tasks of three part-time, marriage-preparation coordinators — serving in the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Monroe County regions — will be taken over by Barbara Carroll, the Rochester-based coordinator of Sacramental Life.

Meanwhile, the position of coordinator of Separated, Divorced, Bereaved Ministry at the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry has been reduced from full- to part-time for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

These changes in marriage preparation had already been in the works, noted Maribeth Mancini, director of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis of the Faith Development Ministry.

"We had talked about having marriage preparation be a part of the larger sacramental piece," Mancini explained.



Erik Kunkel/Photo Intern  
**Barbara Carroll, the Rochester-based coordinator of Sacramental Life, will assume some of the tasks that three part-time, marriage-preparation coordinators — serving the Finger Lakes, Southern Tier and Monroe County regions — used to perform before diocesan restructuring.**

The diocese wants parishes to assume more responsibility for marriage preparation, Mancini said, just as they are responsible for catechesis and other sacramental preparation.

Marriage must be treated as a community celebration, Carroll said, adding, "We saw the need to reintegrate it within the context of the parish, a connection with the parish."

Under the new configuration, the diocese will provide training and enrichment programs for marriage-

preparation teams. Coordination of marriage preparation will take place through the local parish.

The diocese will offer marriage-preparation sessions this fall during the transition to parish-centered programs. It will also begin offering sessions on planning the ceremony.

Restructuring due to the diocese's projected budgetary shortfall did require some changes in the way marriage-preparation programs were to be coordinated, however.

Mancini noted that originally the plan had been for regional offices of religious education to provide information about dates and locations for marriage-preparation sessions. The diocese, however, eliminated the Finger Lakes Office of Religious Education as part of its restructuring, forcing a change in plans, Mancini said.

Carroll will temporarily provide registration information for marriage-preparation programs in Monroe and Livingston counties, and the Catechetical Consultant for Clusters in Horseheads will assist with registration for the diocese's other 10 counties. As of Jan. 1, 1993, however, parishes will assume complete responsibility for coordinating sessions.

On the other hand, the reduction of the separated, divorced, bereaved coordinator position from full- to part-time will have immediate impact, according to Giovina Caroscio, executive director of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

"It's an incredibly growing ministry," Caroscio said. "We've been

working on how we are going to best address the needs."

The program will be supported on a part-time basis for fiscal year 1992/93 with a one-time allocation of monies from the diocesan Social Ministry's Board Designated Fund in order to keep the position at least part-time for another year.

Carl Ritz, the ministry's head for the past 10 years, has helped to develop more than 40 separate groups in the five-county region that he serves, Caroscio said. In his part-time capacity, he will not be able to start new groups, she said.

Instead, Caroscio said, Ritz will now concentrate on training local leaders and on putting people in touch with local groups. These local groups will have to assume greater responsibility for forming new groups, and for maintaining themselves, she said.

Phil Brand, a member of the Separated, Divorced, Bereaved Advisory Group, was surprised when he learned that Ritz's position was cut in half.

"(Ritz) is the hub," said Brand, a widower who lives in Waterloo and volunteers at St. Mary's School. "He does a lot of the work. I think we're going to lose out on a lot."

Likewise, Claire Slack said she was dismayed when Ritz's position was reduced. She also had doubts about the groups assuming more responsibility at this time.

"The networking is there," she said, "but it won't work unless we regroup. It can be done, but it's going to take time."

The fact that Ritz's part-time position is being supported through a one-time allocation of funds means that local groups will have to seek money if they want to keep him in his position, Brand noted.

The advisory board had already begun such fundraising activities as a raffle and a concert in the past year, Brand said. The board will need to increase its efforts in the years ahead — perhaps even resorting to "passing the hat" at meetings and charging dues, he said.

The next year will be a struggle, Slack acknowledged.

"Basically, I have faith that we will right ourselves and come out OK," Slack said. "It's too bad nobody told us two years ago this could happen."

**EDITORS' NOTE:** This is the second story in an occasional series concerning the effects of diocesan reorganization.

## McQuaid to add 7th grade

BRIGHTON — McQuaid Jesuit High School is planning to add seventh grade, beginning in the fall of 1993.

McQuaid's board of trustees recently voted in favor of a seventh grade at the all-boys school, located at 1800 Clinton Ave. S. McQuaid currently houses students in grades 8 through 12. Projected total enrollment for 1992-93 is about 700, said Joe Marchese, McQuaid's director of admissions.

Marchese added that the school is hoping to bring in 50 to 75 seventh-graders in 1993, the same enrollment range as McQuaid's eighth grade. A junior high, for seventh- and eighth-graders, will then be established within the existing 36-year-old structure.

"There will be renovations," said Father Daniel O'Brien, SJ, school president. "Our plan is to separate so the younger kids won't be running into the high schoolers, which has not been the case with the eighth-graders."

Both Father O'Brien and Marchese

noted that the board of trustees' decision was fueled by the recent trend in Catholic schools to reduce elementary Catholic schools from kindergarten through eighth grade to K-6.

"It would be kind of unusual for a boy to leave a K-6 school, go to seventh grade at a regional (Catholic) junior high, and then come here," said Marchese, who is in charge of developing the junior-high program.

Father O'Brien pointed out that if a boy goes from Catholic elementary school to public school for seventh grade, there's a greater chance that he'll remain in the public-school system for eighth grade and beyond.

Marchese noted that McQuaid plans on hiring additional staff "with specific training in middle-school education."

"We've already started investigating other junior highs, and we've got an idea of how to implement an exciting junior-high program," he added.

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