

BACK TO SCHOOL



August 12, 1993

My dear people,

In seven weeks the Church of Rochester will gather together for the General Synod. The word "synod" comes from the Greek and means "walking together on a journey." This past year we have journeyed together in several parish/community and regional synods, praying and studying topics of concern to the church in planning for the future.

Lifelong religious education was discerned to be one of the top priorities of the second regional synods, which took place in May, and one of the final recommendations to be considered by the General Synod in October. This recommendation challenges all of us to provide opportunities for parishioners of all ages to encounter the Gospel message and respond by fostering faith and giving service. It specifically charges us, as people committed to Catholic education, to cooperate in finding new models to meet the faith needs of the young, the adolescent, families, the elderly, and all other groups in our parishes and institutions.

Thank you for your dedication to the educational ministry in our church and for your willingness to respond to these challenges. I especially commend those committed to the education of our children in Catholic schools and catechetical programs.

May we continue to pray, encourage and support each other. Be assured of my prayers for you and your ministry and please remember the Synod in your prayers.

With every good wish, I remain,
Your brother in Christ,

+ Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



August 12, 1993

Dear Friends,

September ushers in the start of a new educational year. Vital to our diocesan educational programs are the thousands of teachers and catechists who proclaim the message of a generous loving God and who themselves are generous with their time, talent and the sharing of their faith with others. Let me take this opportunity to thank them for their Christian witness and generosity.

It is an exciting and challenging time to be an educational minister in the Diocese of Rochester. The Synod process has resulted in many recommendations which call us to seek new and creative ways to share our faith with parishioners of all ages. Synod Theme 5 asked us to explore how we can improve our efforts in faith development and invite others to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Inter-generational programs and the formation of small communities within parishes are two of many recommendations drafted to respond to this invitation.

Since 1987 we as a diocese have been committed to the vision of life-long formation. This vision known as the Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan calls for the same vision reflected in Theme 5. It is a vision that demands new models and a new emphasis on total Catholic education and formation. It requires our openness and dedication to the process of creating the best possible climate for a Well-Integrated Catechetical Plan to flourish.

As we begin a new academic year, let us pray that each of us will renew our commitment to Catholic formation and education in our Diocese.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Binsack RSM
Diocesan Director
Faith Development Ministry

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