ocal news

Teams to monitor Synod response

By Rob Cullivan Staff writer

SHORTSVILLE - Five teams will analyze data received from parishes concerning implementation of the General Synod's top five recommendations, according to Father Joseph A. Hart, director of the Office of the Synod.

The decision to appoint the 12-member teams was made by the Synod Implementation Commission during its meeting on Wednesday night, Nov. 10, at St. Dominic's Parish, 6 Canandaigua St.

Each team will comprise two commission members; two employees of the Pastoral Center in Gates; and eight other Catholics taken from the diocese's various regions, and representing various ministries and such academic disciplines as theology, Father Hart said Nov. 11.

The teams should be formed in time for the commission's next meeting on Dec. 15, he added.

In addition to calling for analysis, the commission also approved a job description for a Director of Synod Implementation at its Nov. 10 meeting. The commission hopes to hire such a director in time for its next meeting.

About 85 parishes responded to a request from the diocese for information regarding how parishes and communities would implement each of the General Synod's top five recommendations.

The Synod, funded by \$130,000 in Thanks Giving Appeal monies, culminated in a general session held in

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1993-94 Thanks Giving Appeal

Rochester Oct. 1-3.

Father Hart added that between 10 and 15 more parishes have assured the commission that they will return their responses soon.

To indicate the direction the diocese should take in the next decade, delegates at the Synod voted for the following five recommendations: lifelong religious education, consistent life ethic, Catholic moral education, role of women in the church, and small Christian communities.

Following the Synod, the diocese sent each parish response sheets asking what its response to each recommendation was or will be; how staffing and programming resources will be used to implement each recommendation; what the parish will need from the diocese in terms of training and programming; and what possibilities the parish has of networking with other parishes to implement each rec-

ommendation.

The eight-member analysis teams will collate the data and prepare reports on each of the recommendations for the commission's meeting on March 9, 1994, Father Hart said.

In particular, the reports may highlight parishes that can serve as models for the rest of the diocese in implementing recommendations, he added. The reports will also suggest strategies for implementing the recommendations and point out how the diocese can use its staff to assist parishes.

In related news, the commission has added a new member, Michelle Szczesniak, a parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Geneseo and a sophomore at St. John Fisher College in Pittsford.

Szczesniak, 19, who is active in campus ministry, served as a delegate for St. Mary's to the General Synod.

"After the Synod Mass, I asked the bishop why there wasn't any youth on the Synod Commission, and a few weeks later I got a phone call," she remembered.

That phone call came from Father Hart, who noted that Szczesniak was outspoken at the Synod's general session, where she said she advocated on behalf of the elderly.

As a member of the commission, Szczesniak is also a member of the team analyzing parish data regarding the recommendation on the role of women in the church.

"I've been working with the Synod for quite awhile, and I'd like to see that these recommendations do get implemented," she said.

Two reunions set for St. Agnes High alumni

ROCHESTER — Two reunions for the former St. Agnes High School will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27.

A 20-year reunion will take place at the Wishing Well Party House, 1190 Chili Ave. Those interested in attending, or who can provide information concerning alumni from the Class of 1973, should call Judy Yeager at 716/235-5346.

A 25-year gathering is scheduled at the Radisson Inn, 175 Jefferson Road. For information, or to provide details about members of the Class of 1968, call Jean Hall Cosgriff at 716/225-3500.

St. Mary's Hospital in need of volunteers

ROCHESTER --- St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee St., needs volunteers in the following areas: admitting, central registration, distribution center, information desk, medical library, baby portraits, patient activities, patient transporter, patient discharge and control desk.

Most of the tasks involve only a few hours each week, or a few days each week. Training is provided in all areas. To learn more about volunteering, call Annabelle Pugliese, director of volunteers, at 716/464-3255.



Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580) Vol. 105 No. 7 November 18, 1993

- Published weekly except the last
- Thursday in December.
- Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢ one-year subscription in U.S., \$19.50; Canada and foreign \$19.50 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Second-Class postage paid at Roch-seter N.Y.
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