

# Ministry Day provides peek at new catechism

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Approximately 250 parish staff members gathered Dec. 14 for Ministry Day at the Marriot Thruway, 5257 W. Henrietta Road, to learn more about the Catholic Church's new catechism.

Released in French on Dec. 7, 1992, the catechism is not yet available in its final English version due to Vatican concerns about accurate translation.

The daylong program also featured a ceremony awarding certificates to individuals who had earned certification for designated ministries, and honoring people for years of service.

According to Judith Ann Kollar, director of the diocesan department of professional development, the decision to focus on the catechism was made last spring and was based on projections that the catechism would be available in its English version in time for Ministry Day.

When it became clear that the translation would not be ready, Kollar said she consulted other groups about how they were handling the situation before deciding to go ahead with Ministry Day as planned.

The program's presenters were Nathan Kollar, a theology professor at St. John Fisher College; Monsignor William H. Shannon, a former theology professor at Nazareth College; and James Nash, assistant professor of religion at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Nathan Kollar, who talked about the faith and revelation sections of the catechism, described the document as "a source book for the Catholic Church."

The St. John Fisher professor noted that although the catechism was originally intended for bishops and theologians, the document now is being targeted to a broader audience.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark hands Mary Rose Barron an award for 50 years of service as secretary at St. Mary's Church in Auburn on Dec. 14.

Monsignor Shannon, who discussed the catechism's liturgy and spirituality sections, said that the document would provide a handy resource for parish staff members, but speculated that it would not be widely read.

"Catechisms are not interesting reading — they are boring — that's the very nature of a catechism," Monsignor Shannon remarked.

Nevertheless, the monsignor added, the new catechism is "a good compendi-

um of Christian thought. We need something of a summary of what we believe as Catholics, and it serves the purpose."

Monsignor Shannon also had high praise for the two segments with which he dealt, calling them the best parts of the catechism.

The section on liturgy, Monsignor Shannon said, explains liturgical development in the church since Vatican II. And the section on prayer, he said, "picks up much of the understanding of

spirituality that has emerged in the church in recent years."

In addition to learning about the catechism, participants at the ministry day were also given an opportunity to interact with their peers, Judith Kollar observed.

Moreover, she said, the day provided an opportunity to recognize those who have served the church for years, and those who had completed the diocesan certification program for designated ministers.

"It's a way of welcoming them into the body of ministers," Judith Kollar noted.

At the gathering, certificates were presented to Patricia Albrecht and Starlet Capone as business managers; Raymond Grosswirth as a coordinator of music; Kathleen Gammell as a religious education administrator; Barbara Ayer, Shari Fischer, Adelaide Hutson, Alice Leistman, and Veronica Zawacki as religious education coordinators; and Judi Cuffney, Ellen Hallahan and Janet Schwenkler as diocesan religious education administrators.

Among those individuals recognized for years of service was Mary Rose Barron, who has served as a secretary at Auburn's St. Mary's Parish for 50 years.

Recognized for 25 years of service were: Giuliana Brady, Arthur Hammer, James Raftis and Sister Roberta Rodenhouse, RSM; for 20 years, Patricia Bach, Sister Nancy DeRycke, SSJ, Deacon Thomas Driscoll, Donna Jeffers, Mona Mattuzzi, and Evelyn Scherbyn;

For 15 years, Marie Cadoret, Bettye Canestaro, Elaine Doyle, Armando Chris Figueroa, Albert Gillow, Lucile Lenhard, Mary Rogers, Sister Kay Schwenzer, RSM, and Jean Van Scott; and for 10 years, Helen Borden, Deacon Stephen Carroll, Gary LaLonde, Sister Christine Lloyd, SSJ, Kenneth Mattil, Sister Mary Agnes Trabold, SSJ, and Glenna Wickline.

## Christmas Appeal may fall short of this year's goal

This year's Christmas Appeal is well short of its \$70,000 goal, according to Judy Taylor, education and advocacy communications manager for diocesan Social Ministry.

As of Monday, Jan. 3, 1,119 donors had given \$53,049 to the annual appeal. At this time last year, the appeal had raised more than \$61,000 on the way to topping its \$70,000 goal. Taylor attributed this year's decline to several factors, including dire economic conditions throughout the diocese.

"Personally, I think there are so many (charitable) organizations now, and people are trying to be conscious of all of them, and they're all coming up short," she said.

Taylor added that 349 of last year's more than 1,600 donors did not donate this year. Repeat donors are crucial to the Christmas Appeal's success, she said.

Taylor said her office plans to explore additional ef-

orts to raise appeal monies, including the possibility of a second drive to meet the \$70,000 goal. The appeal is the only source of funding for the emergency efforts of many parishes and diocesan agencies, she stressed.

"I'm just hoping that the news that things are short might trigger a response because the need for this continues after Christmas," she said.

The Christmas Appeal is a cooperative effort of the *Catholic Courier* and diocesan Social Ministry to raise funds that will help people in desperate financial crises. The appeal consists of a series of articles in the *Catholic Courier* and a direct-mail solicitation of prior donors.

Appeal proceeds are allocated to the emergency funds of such diocesan agencies as the Catholic Family Center and the regional offices of social ministry.

— Rob Cullivan

I want to help. Please use my donation to help a neighbor in need.

**CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check (payable to "Christmas Appeal") and this coupon to:

**Christmas Appeal, c/o Social Ministry of the Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624**

## Bishop names Deacon Cass synod implementation head

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has named Deacon Thomas Cass to the newly created position of synod implementation director, effective Dec. 17, 1993.

As director, Deacon Cass will oversee the process of converting the five recommendations adopted during the Diocese of Rochester's Seventh Synod in October into a long-range action plan.

He will chair the 15-member Synod Implementation Commission, which is charged with overseeing the development of an action plan for parishes and the diocese. That plan is scheduled to be completed by next January.

In naming the deacon to the position, Bishop Clark said, "I'm delighted that (Deacon) Tom Cass has agreed to take



on the responsibility of assuring that the work and spirit of the Synod continue." Deacon Cass noted that he expects to

spend about half his time in parishes and faith communities during his year as director. He plans on talking with staff about ways to continue the Synod process that began in 1990. He will also gather their suggestions about how the Pastoral Center's staff may assist parishes and faith communities in their efforts to implement the Synod.

"The two words used most often to describe this position are 'facilitate' and 'communicate,'" Deacon Cass said. "I'll be doing a lot of both."

He comes to the position after taking early retirement from Xerox Corporation in 1991. After earning a master's degree in theology at St. Bernard's Institute in 1992, he was ordained a permanent deacon.

He has been serving as deacon at St. Michael's Parish in Newark. Deacon Cass has also been ministering at the House of John — a home for the terminally ill in Clifton Springs — as a care provider and a member of the house's board of trustees. His wife, Jean, serves as the house's co-director.

In addition to serving on the public relations committee of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, he is Finger Lakes representative on the Deacon Personnel Board.

Deacon Cass succeeds Father Joseph Hart, who served as Synod director from 1990 until Dec. 31, 1993. Father Hart will return to teaching at St. Bernard's Institute after returning from his current sabbatical.