

# Catholic Courier

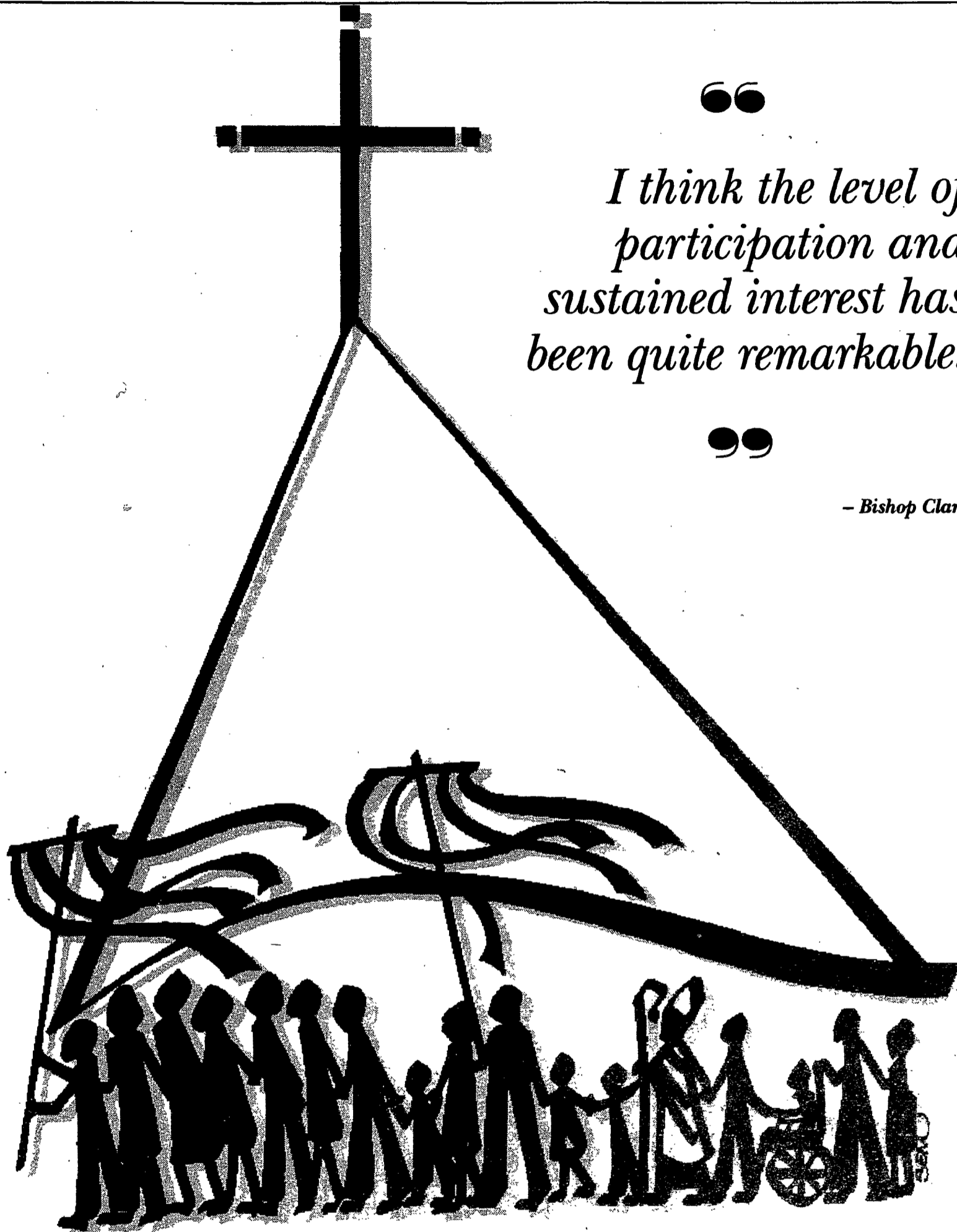
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## SYNOD o·n·e year retrospective

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“  
*I think the level of participation and sustained interest has been quite remarkable.*  
”

— Bishop Clark

## Five-year pastoral plan nearly ready Many parishes have already started implementation

**A**nyone who thinks the Diocese of Rochester's Seventh Synod ended with the General Synod session at the Riverside Convention Center in Rochester Oct. 1-3, 1993, need only try to contact Deacon Thomas Cass these days to have that notion quickly dispelled.

The deacon, who has officially served as director of the Office of the Synod since Jan. 1, 1994, is currently busy overseeing last-minute preparations for Oct. 1 synod-implementation meetings at 11 regional sites around the diocese. The hundreds of people attending those meetings will consider a draft of the pastoral plan designed to implement the five goals approved by delegates at the General Synod and ultimately by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

The goals approved at the General Synod originally targeted five areas: lifelong

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religious education; the consistent-life ethic; Catholic moral education; women in the church; and small Christian communities. As a result of deliberations during the past year, however, writers of the draft pastoral plan opted to combine the first and third goals — which were closely related — into a single goal.

Among the recommendations of the draft pastoral plan are hiring Pastoral Center personnel to oversee such areas as the consistent-life ethic, and adult and family faith formation; developing pilot projects in selected parishes to help survey needs and provide moral education; offering more training, workshop and certification opportunities for parish staffs and volunteers;

and holding regular convocations focusing on such themes as the consistent-life ethic and small Christian communities.

Once the plan is finally approved and released — which, Deacon Cass reports, is scheduled to occur by the end of December — parishes will be asked to submit to the Pastoral Center a list of implementation steps they will be taking in the 1995-96 fiscal year. Those reports, due by February 1, 1995, will help diocesan officials decide where to allocate funds as they prepare the diocesan budget.

Moreover, the plan is to be revised in each of the five years of synod implementation, building on work already done and recognizing that full realization of the plan will not occur immediately.

All of this current and future work is only part of a continuum of activity since he

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