

Special sections for 1995

By Karen M. Franz
Editor in chief

Back in August, I asked for your input on a list that combined long-standing supplements and themes for new supplements our staff was considering for 1995. Thirty readers responded to that survey, some in amazing detail, and I want to thank each of them for their participation.

In addition to soliciting reader input, we also sought comments from the directors of diocesan ministry groups and incorporated the goals established by the diocesan synod into our decision-making process.

What emerged from that process was a list of 13 supplements we plan to publish during 1995. Their names — along with publication dates and a description of anticipated content — follow this introduction. We hope you'll be satisfied that your preferences are fairly represented in the list. I'll look forward to your reactions.

PARENTING — Jan. 26: This section will feature the Catholic perspective on raising children in the 1990s, including such issues as discipline, education, faith development and countering harmful values in society. Additional stories may address maintaining good communications with teenagers and letting go of maturing children.

MARRIAGE — Feb. 9: A modification of our longstanding Marriage section, this supplement will present Catholic teaching on the sacrament of marriage and consider liturgical aspects of the wedding celebration. Special emphasis will be placed on developing a strong marital relationship,



BETWEEN THE LINES

and on strengthening it long after the honeymoon is over. Additional stories may address spirituality in marriage, divorce and annulment, and the church's response to cohabitation.

LENT — March 2: This supplement will help Catholics learn more about this holiest of seasons and ways of making the traditional liturgies more meaningful in their lives. It will offer an overview of current regulations on fasting and abstinence; a listing of special diocesan-wide celebrations; an update on such issues as the "Easter duty" and general absolution; and recipes for tasty non-meat meals.

MILESTONES — April 6: This supplement will honor the achievements of priests, sisters and brothers celebrating jubilees of their vocations, and of those who are retiring from active ministry. It will feature biographical sketches of those celebrating such mile-

stones, and will focus on their vocations as models for others considering the priesthood or religious life.

FAITH IN THE WORKPLACE — May 11: This special section will focus on how various Catholics — from blue-collar workers to heads of major corporations — live their faith in and through their jobs. It will address such issues as ethical pricing, compassionate human-relations policies, fairness, and the decision to fire an employee.

GRADUATION — June 8: A look at the high school Class of '95 as its members prepare to enter college and the working world. In addition to the listing of graduates' names, this section also will contain feature articles on selected graduates, with emphasis on their aspirations for the future.

DIRECTORY OF CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS — June 29: The Diocese of Rochester is home to numerous organizations of lay Catholics — from fraternal and service groups to spiritual and prayer leagues. This section will provide an opportunity for such groups to inform Courier readers about their history, purpose and membership opportunities.

HEALTH & RETIREMENT — July 20: For 1995, our award-winning annual health section will be expanded to encompass issues related to retirement and aging. It will address these topics from the unique perspective provided by Catholic teaching and values.

EDUCATION — Aug. 10: Lifelong Christian education emerged from the synod as the most important goal for the diocese. Thus, the Courier will expand its annual study of trends, developments and issues in education —

from kindergarten to the continuing education of adults, from Catholic schools to religious education.

TO LIFE! — Sept. 28: The Consistent Life Ethic, which promotes the dignity of human life from conception until natural death, became Goal 2 in the synod. This section, timed to precede Respect Life Month in October, will deal with protecting life through advocacy and action on such issues as abortion, militarism, capital punishment, euthanasia and aid to the poor.

FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP — Oct. 19: How does the church — from the Vatican to the local parish — raise money, and how are those dollars spent? Who gives to Catholic causes, and how much do Catholics give as compared to members of other denominations? In addition, the section also will address raising funds for parish and other ministries.

ADVENT — Nov. 30: As society decorates, Christians meditate on the mystery of Jesus' humble birth. This supplement will help families to celebrate the season of anticipation through projects, special meals and activities that will provide a respite from the relentless commercialism of secular holiday preparations.

SPIRITUALITY — Dec. 14: As we await the rebirth of Christ in our hearts, the Courier will focus on ways individuals can grow in their relationship to God. Among the options to be presented are Scripture study, guided retreats, spiritual reading, parish and other prayer groups. The section also will consider the history of various spiritual methods, and the modern use of sacramentals.



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