

**NOTES** (explanatory comments, definitions, examples, etc.):

## GOAL 1

Since 1987, the term "Well Integrated Catechetical Plan" (WICP) has been used to describe life-long religious education. The use of this term is now replaced by our Synod priority, life-long faith formation (LLFF)

To effect the dramatic shift from child-centered to *life-long* religious education called for by the Synod, parish programs must focus on adult formation

- 1.1.1. These particular themes were repeatedly mentioned in the parish responses throughout the Synod process
- 1.1.2. This Action Step addresses Synod priorities on Catholic moral education and consistent life ethic
- 1.1.3. In order to ensure that this Goal is implemented, responsibility must be assigned
- 1.1.5. Liturgy is the "source and summit" of the Christian life, and the central activity by which the community celebrates and expresses its beliefs and traditions

**Parish Action Steps: By Feb. 1, 1995, parishes are asked to identify their plans for implementation of these Goals and Objectives. They need not act on each Goal or Objective every year. But over the life of the Plan, each is asked to move forward on all four Goals**

- 1.2. The shift from child-centered to life-long formation will require a corresponding shift in resources
- 1.3. Families/households are partners with parishes in transmitting faith. Families/households need resources to help the adults fulfill their role as primary teachers of their children
- 1.3.1. These evaluations continue our commitment to promote quality faith formation for school age children and teens
- 1.4.1. 72% of the parish survey responses identified this activity as a top priority for LLFF

A catechist is a teacher of religion for adults and children in Catholic schools, religious education and family education programs, sacramental preparation programs and retreats

- 1.4.2. Parishes would be selected through an application process
- 1.4.3. Continuing education is regularly offered at minimum cost to all parish staffs and is usually funded by the parish. Also, the diocese offers tuition assistance for degree programs through an application process
- 1.4.4. With the transfer of these programs from the Pastoral Center, SBI will become the diocesan resource center for preparation and continuing education of professional parish staff members. Courses will continue to be offered at sites throughout the diocese

# Goal 1: Form Catholics in beliefs, Catholic morality and spirituality throughout life

## Rationale:

The Synod identified life-long religious education as its top priority by an overwhelming majority. Parish responses to the Synod Analysis Team reports recommended connecting Catholic moral education with life-long religious education. Therefore, these two priorities have been combined.

Because the phrase *religious education* often signifies classroom-based activities, the term *faith formation* (which implies a process of prayer, education, worship and service) is used in the following Objectives and Action Steps.

**Four primary themes emerged from the Synod process, and form basis for the Objectives under this goal:**

1. Providing ways for adults to grow in their faith.
2. Funding of life-long faith formation in the context of the many demands on parish resources.
3. Support for families/households as the primary places for growth in faith.
4. Formation and ongoing training for volunteer and professional leaders.

In addition, several other concerns expressed by parishes are incorporated into the Action Steps. These include: youth ministry, catechetical programs for school-aged children, family based spirituality, and the effectiveness of Catholic schools.

## Objective 1.1: Promote mature growth in faith for young adults and adults to help them link everyday life with Catholic belief

### Pastoral Center Action Steps 1995-96:

- 1.1.1. Develop six adult discussion packets for use in parishes on:
  - a. Living a Spiritual Life Today
  - b. Ethical Practices in the Workplace
  - c. How Adults Pray
  - d. Making Moral Decisions
  - e. Reading Scripture
  - f. Marriage and Divorce in Today's Church
- 1.1.2. Design, implement, pilot, and evaluate three programs to expose young adults and adults to various elements of Catholic moral education, social teaching and consistent life ethic. Programs will address:
  - a. issues of personal morality
  - b. issues of social morality, such as racism and sexism
  - c. consistent life ethic
- 1.1.3. Hire a diocesan Coordinator for Adult and Family Faith Formation
- 1.1.4. Ask each parish to identify a person responsible for adult formation; convene them twice a year
- 1.1.5. Provide parishes with an assessment instrument to help them evaluate and enhance their liturgical celebrations

**Parish Action Steps 1995-96: (currently under consideration by each parish)**

## Objective 1.2: Redirect parish and diocesan resources to fund life-long faith formation

### Pastoral Center Action Steps 1995-96:

- 1.2.1. Redirect Pastoral Center resources for the 1995-96 budget
- 1.2.2. By July 1995, draft principles by which parishes can redirect resources to enhance their commitment to lifelong faith formation while maintaining a commitment to Catholic schools

**Parish Action Steps 1995-96: (currently under consideration by each parish)**

## Objective 1.3: Help families/households to grow in faith

### Pastoral Center Action Steps 1995-96:

- 1.3.1. Evaluate the effectiveness of formal religious education programs, Catholic schools, and youth ministry in helping parents fulfill their responsibility to transmit faith to their children
- 1.3.2. Develop intergenerational materials to assist families/households in:
  - a) conscience formation
  - b) sexuality education
  - c) prayer
  - d) Scripture

**Parish Action Steps 1995-96: (currently under consideration by each parish)**

## Objective 1.4: Train parish volunteers and pastoral staff members in the knowledge and skills essential for their ministry

### Pastoral Center Action Steps 1995-96:

- 1.4.1. By January 1996, develop a comprehensive program to certify catechists
- 1.4.2. Help two urban and two rural parishes identify and train potential candidates for pastoral leadership
- 1.4.3. Require all parish staff, campus ministers and Catholic school principals to take a minimum of 10 approved hours per year of continuing education
- 1.4.4. By July 1995, assign to St. Bernard's Institute (SBI) the administration of the following programs:
  - a) formation of deacons
  - b) continuing education for professional ministers
  - c) Certification for Designated Ministry
  - d) *Instituto*, the Hispanic formation program

**Parish Action Steps 1995-96: (currently under consideration by each parish)**

