

Catholic Organization Directory

Diocese is home to many groups marked by faith

BY ROB CULLIVAN, STAFF WRITER

Diocesan Catholics have a wide variety of opportunities to join organizations designed to strengthen bonds of faith and friendship.

This article highlights just a few of the many organizations available, either as independent groups or associations tied to other diocesan institutions. For example, St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira and St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester both operate auxiliary associations the public is invited to join.

Catholics also should keep abreast of periodic newspaper articles and announcements of the existence or formation of organizations devoted to helping people live out their faith.

A more detailed list of Catholic organizations can be found in the "The Official Directory of the Diocese of Rochester," published by the *Catholic Courier*. Advance orders now are being accepted for the 1995-1996 edition, which will be available this fall. Complete copies of the loose-leaf book may be ordered for \$15 by calling Jeanne A. Morin, directory editor, at 716/328-4340; annual replacement-page kits currently cost \$9.50.

What follows is a synopsis of various diocesan groups' listings from "The Official Directory of the Diocese of Rochester." Due to space considerations, this listing does not include the names of contact persons, but callers should be aware that they may be calling a home phone number. Consult the directory for more details.

Christian Development

The Rochester Cursillo Movement offers retreats and guidance to lay Catholics - 716/342-9641.

Devotional Groups

Catholic Charismatic Renewal provides a newsletter, services, speakers, teaching programs, and Masses. Write the CCR at P.O. Box 25251, Rochester, N.Y. 14625.

The First Friday Club holds monthly Masses at 11:45 a.m. at 670 Thurston Road in Rochester - 716/262-3342.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society is an organization of men and women who pray before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour once a month at various parishes throughout the diocese - 716/544-2686.

The Legion of Mary's members seek to sanctify their personal lives and to reclaim marginal Catholics and convert non-Catholics through personal visitation - 716/663-8722.

Lay Catholic women who seek spiritual growth through the teachings of St. Francis DeSales and the gospels should contact the Society of St. Francis DeSales at 716/482-3636, or 663-7309.

The World Apostolate of Fatima promotes devotion to Our Lady of Fatima through such practices as saying the rosary - 716/377-1158.

Family Life Groups

Matt Talbot Ministries provides reconciliation counseling to married couples and individuals - 716/442-1204.



Rochester's Mercy Center with the Aging offers various programs for older adults and their families by networking through parishes - 716/235-8731.

Natural Family Planning Education trains couples in the sympto-thermal method of family planning - 716/423-9490.

Parentship Family Life Programs provides seminars and counseling for teens, parents; trains lay ministers - 716/223-3918.

Retrouvaille is designed to help couples in troubled marriages, or divorced/separated couples seeking to reconcile - 716/663-2983, or 621-2901.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter seeks to strengthen couples' marriages - 716/964-2383.

Fraternal Organizations

These groups promote Christian fellowship and service, and provide sick and death benefits for members.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians promotes Irish customs and traditions - 716/244-9044.

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal benefit society of lay men who, among other activities, promote Catholic education through scholarships and endowments - 716/647-3972.

The Knights of St. John is a fraternal benefit society that serves as honor guard at religious ceremonies and assists pastors - 716/889-2919.

Both groups of knights as well as the Hibernians offer women's auxiliaries. Contact each group for information.

Social Organizations

The Catholic Daughters of America participate in the church's religious, charitable and educational apostolates - 607/272-5042.

Catholic Golden Age promotes charity and legislative advocacy by men and women 50 years or older, and holds informative meetings on spiritual, educational and social topics - 716/467-3398.

In addition to promoting charity, the Catholic Women's Club of Rochester, Inc., holds bridge afternoons, antique groups, Christmas teas and luncheons with notable speakers - 716/461-9173.

Professional Groups

The Catholic Physicians' Guild holds conferences and meetings on medical ethics and other issues - 716/461-5046.

Church Office Professional Employees (C.O.P.E.) is open to all diocesan, parish and special ministries office professionals (secretaries, bookkeepers, office managers and administrative assistants) - 716/671-2100.

St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild consists of Catholic attorneys - 716/292-0170.

Miscellaneous Groups

Catholic Homeschoolers of Western New York promote homeschooling that includes instruction in the Catholic faith - 716/224-9373, or 458-5628.

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