

Education



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
1150 Buffalo Road
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716-328-3210
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August 10, 1995

My dear people,

Within the Diocese of Rochester, we have been blessed with a long tradition of quality programs to assist in the formation of our people. This tradition is evident in our parish religious education programs, youth ministry activities, Catholic school system and in the many efforts to assist adults in their continued growth in faith.

It is with joy that I anticipate the start of so many of these formation programs throughout the Diocese and also of the many initiatives our people have identified to support the Synod priority of life-long faith formation.

I especially welcome to the Pastoral Center staff Karen Rinefierd as Coordinator for Young Adult, Adult and Family Faith Formation, and Suzanne Schnittman as Consistent Life Ethic Coordinator. Their hiring is the direct result of the direction parishes set during the diocesan Synod process. Both will have major formation responsibilities around our synod priorities and will assist parishes in the implementation of our Synod goals.

The faith we share has been nurtured and developed through the guidance and support provided by our formation programs. These programs have been made available through the generous sharing of time, talent and resources by so many professional and volunteer ministers. I commend the dedication and commitment of catechetical leaders, principals, teachers, youth ministers, catechists and all the others who, together with parish and diocesan staffs, ensure the availability of life-long faith formation in communities.

It promises to be an exciting year of Synod implementation and new initiatives. May we continue to pray, encourage and support each other in our ministries.

With every good wish, I remain,
Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

†Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester



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Dear friends,

Adult discussion packets for parishes. A diocesan formation program for catechists and teachers. Intergenerational materials for families/households. These are a few of the initiatives the staff of Faith Development Ministry and other diocesan departments will provide this academic year in response to our synod priority of life-long faith formation.

It is a year of collaboration: with St. Bernard's Institute to provide formation and continuing education for our professional ministers; with our faith communities to be a resource and support to them as they implement our Synod goals; and with each other as we find new and creative ways to share the "Good News."

The challenge to be faithful to God's call in our lives has become increasingly critical in our present time. Only a "living, conscious and active faith" can shape our thoughts and guide our actions as we respond to the conflicting messages in our contemporary culture. This is the goal of life-long faith formation: to call people to know and to live responsibly the faith into which they have been baptized.

Meeting this challenge requires dedicated and creative faith communities, leaders, ministers and families. I am grateful to all those involved in the educational ministry in our schools and faith communities. It is by their words and example that they lead others to the Gospel.

May this academic year be filled with much peace as we, in the words of our diocesan Mission, "joyfully embrace our baptismal call to worship God, to preach the good news of Christ, to build up the community of faith and hope in the Holy Spirit and to serve those in need."

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Binsack RSM

Mary Ann Binsack, RSM
Diocesan Director, Faith Development Ministry

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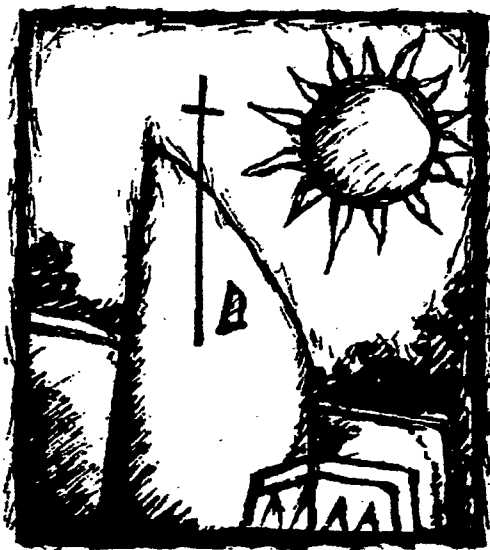
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1995/96

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Academic Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99% graduation rate 94% college attendance rate Standardized test scores exceed local and national averages
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worship and religious instruction Respect for God's gift of life Sound moral values Care for others through community service
Discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive learning environment Development of self-discipline Homework and effective study habits
Family Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents recognized as primary educators Parental input and involvement Partnerships with parents and community

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