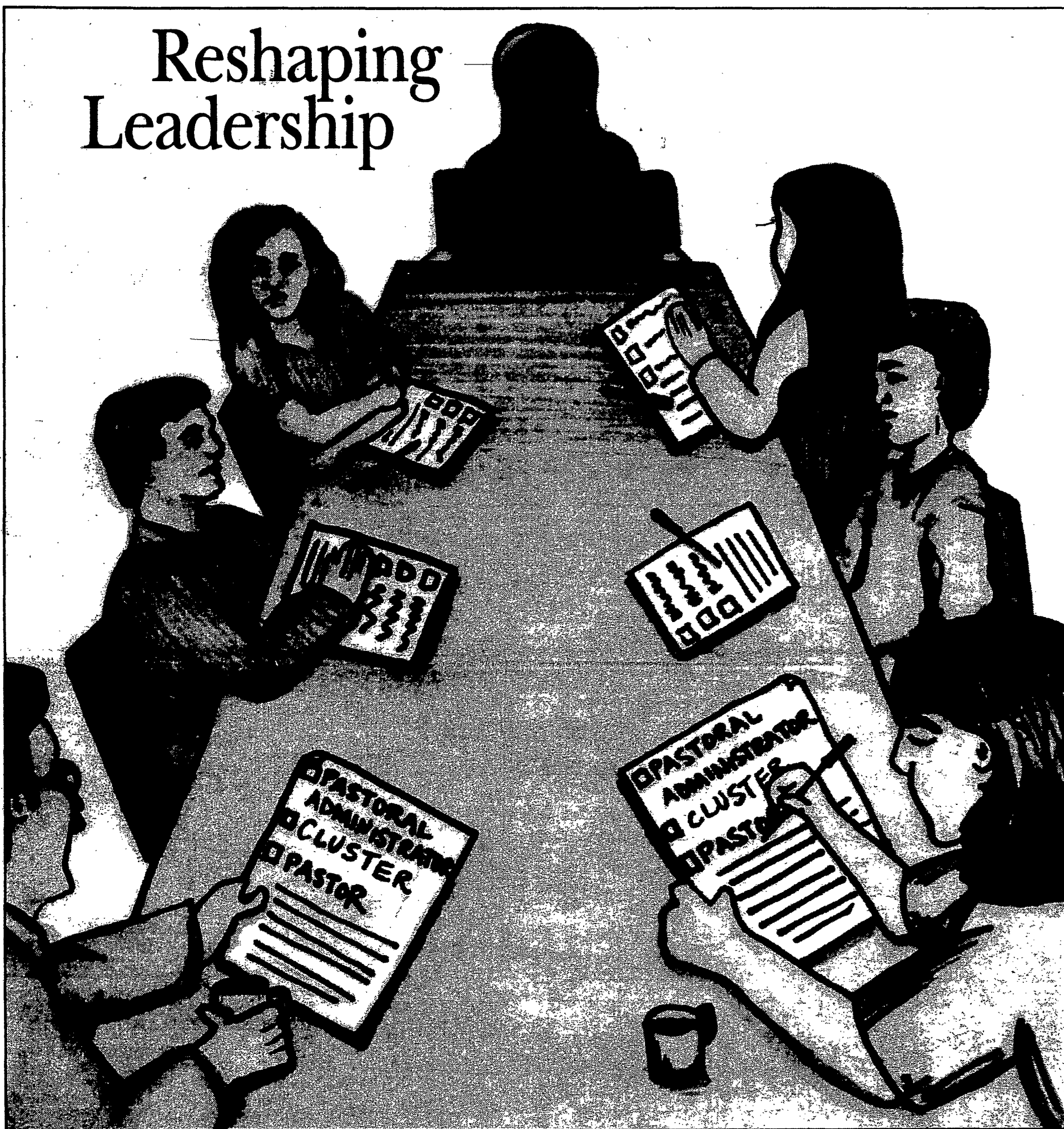




Catholic Courier

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Reshaping Leadership



Parishes use process to plan futures

Their reasons range from losing pastors to looking to the future. Nevertheless, 13 parishes in Monroe and western Wayne counties are working with a common process that may become the diocesan-wide norm for planning parish pastoral leadership.

In June, Father Emmett J. Halloran, pastor of Macedon's St. Patrick's Parish, and Father Daniel P. Tormey, pastor of Scottsville's St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, will retire.

In Rochester at the same time, the St. Francis of Assisi/Ss. Peter and Paul Parish Cluster will lose its pastor, Father David P. Reid, SS.CC, and Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph Parish will lose its pastor, Father Thomas Loftus, CSSR. Their respective orders have reassigned the priests outside the Diocese of Rochester.

Meanwhile, the terms of Father George Heyman, administrator of the Holy Apostles/St. Anthony of Padua Parish Cluster (Rochester), Father William Laird, administrator of St. Vincent DePaul Parish (Churchville) and Sister Nancy DeRycke, SSJ, interim administrator of St. Helen's Parish (Gates), will be coming to an end.

Also, Fairport's Church of the Resurrection, Rochester's Holy Family Parish, and the Catholic Communities of St. Anne (Palmyra) and St. Gregory

(Marion) are involved in the process even though they are not currently undergoing transitions. Instead, they are showing support for neighboring parishes going through transition, studying possible effects of those transitions on their own communities and looking at their own futures.

These 13 parishes are in the midst of pastoral planning processes with parish planning teams that are:

- studying parish needs,
- conducting vitality studies,
- listening to representatives of other parishes that have gone through transitions, and
- holding town meetings with parishioners to provide them with information and to get feedback.

Their goal is to produce recommendations for pastoral leadership in the parishes. These recommendations are to be submitted to Bishop Mathew H. Clark in January.

Options these parishes are considering include: the traditional model of priest pastor, a cluster or merger with other parishes, and a pastoral administrator.

A key to the current process is that each parish, Continued on page 14

STORY BY ASSOCIATE EDITOR LEE STRONG

ILLUSTRATION BY AMY SUNDSTROM

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