#### PAGE 2A THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1996

# Education

S A

String and State of S

CATHOLIC COURIER DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, N.Y.

August 8, 1996

#### My dear friends,

#### 1150 Buffalo Road. Rochester, New York 14524-159

At this time of the year I am reminded of the generosity of the thousands of volunteers and Catholic school teachers who share their time each year as teachers of religion. These catechists are a visible sign of God's generosity to our parish communities. They unselfishly spend countless hours passing on our faith to schoolaged children, to adults and children who are part of an RCIA process, to children preparing to celebrate Confirmation, first Eucharist and penance, to teens and in adult education and Bible study groups.

In our diocese, volunteers and Catholic school teachers who work with school-aged children number more than 4,400. They serve more than 45,000 children in our twelve-county area. Hundreds of other catechists work in sacramental preparation, in youth ministry, or with adults. These people are the lifeblood of catechetical miniistry in our diocese. It is through their work that the Church's catechetical ministry and our diocesan priority of lifelong faith formation can be realized.

These women and men are models of committed Catholics. They continue to grow in their understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ, they are people of prayer who worship regularly with their faith community and they take the message of the Gospel to the world through their witness and service. They are partners with parents who are the first and most important teachers of their children. These catechists are important to the activity in the Church, for through them the Church is embodied in a special way.

As so many programs resume this fall, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to these women and men who minister as catechists in our parish communities and Catholic schools. Their dedication to the church, their commitment to their own growth in faith and their willingness to share their faith is an inspiration to all of us. May they be strengthened in their work, inspired by Jesus' message, and blessed by God's abundant love. Thank you for your service to our church.

> Your brother in Christ, Man wew Heral + Matthew H. Clark Bishop of Rochester

August 8, 1990

Dear friends, Within the Diocese of Rochester, we have been blessed with a long tradition of quality programs to assist in the formation and

education of the faithful. This tradition is evident in our parish religious education programs, in Catholic schools, through youth ministry and in the many efforts to foster manne faith among adults.

Central to the educational ministry of the Church is personal involvement and responsibility. I am grateful to the catecherical leaders, principals, youth ministers, catechists and Catholic school teachers who work to strengthen the Church I educational ministry throughout our Diocese. Their lives and work reflect both their commitment to Christ and their belief that growth in faith is a lifelong process.

This is an exciting and challenging time in our Diocese. Ongoing dialogue on the centrality of the Eucharist, assisting parishes in the implementation of their Synod goals and developing a diocesan strategic plan are a few of the initiatives that are taking place this year.

All of these initiatives require us to listen and be open to new and creative ways of being Church. They call us to a spirit of cooperation and prayerfulness.

Let us continue to pray, encourage and support each other as we minister in Christ's name.

> Sinterety, Mary Ann Binsack RSM Diocesan Directors Faith Development Ministry

### Nazareth Coilege

4245 East Avenue • Rochester, NY 14618-3790

## Dianne Lynn Dance Theatre

Ages 2 1/2 - Adult • Beginner thru Competition



TAP · BALLET · JAZZ · LYRICAL · BALLROOM MTV FUNK · CLUB · MUSICAL COMEDY · ACRO MODELING · ACTING · ALL BOYS' CLASS

