

Education

SBI-based programs offer food for thought

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

One of the trends in retailing these days is "one-stop shopping."

St. Bernard's Institute is going one better.

SBI has plenty to offer "in shop." This fall it will present a selection of graduate theology courses, such as classes in American Catholicism, Mary and the Saints and Liturgical Leadership.

It will also host diocesan continuing education programs addressing such areas as copyright and workplace concerns, and a Dec. 4 workshop on end-of-life issues.

And it is home to the Diocese of Rochester's certification for designated ministry program, which provides training in fields that do not require graduate theology degrees, such as social, liturgical and music ministry. This fall, the program will offer classes in New Testament letters, canon law, collaboration in ministry and community organizing skills.

But the institute also provides "home delivery." That comes in the form of St. Bernard's On the Road.

The program sends faculty members to parishes across the 12-county diocese to offer in-

sights into Catholic beliefs.

SBI faculty will also travel to several parishes this coming year to present "St. Bernard's Does the Sacraments," a series of workshops addressing the sacraments of reconciliation, baptism, Eucharist, confirmation and matrimony, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The mix of graduate, certification and continuing education programs, and the trips to parishes, have proven beneficial for St. Bernard's, according to the institute's president, Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ.

"Our enrollment is up," Sister Schoelles said, noting that last year some 200 people were enrolled in SBI graduate courses at any given time. "We think it's our heightened visibility in the community."

Moreover, efforts such as St. Bernard's on the Road — which last year involved 55 parishes and some 1,000 attendees — has helped to keep faculty members' eyes open to the issues that concern people, she said.

"One of the big problems with theology is you can get out of touch," Sister Schoelles explained. "St. Bernard's on the Road keeps us in touch with what the people are doing."

Going on the road — and the move last year of the diocese's continuing education and certi-

"I think people spoke loud and clear that they had a hunger for more education,"

Judith Kollar

fication programs to the SBI campus — are part of an overall attempt to coordinate diocesan educational efforts and work with parish staffs to meet their educational needs, Sister Schoelles observed.

The goal of those efforts, she explained, "is to make theology user friendly."

Judith Kollar, diocesan director of continuing education, noted that the various programs now housed at St. Bernard's are trying to keep in mind not only the needs, but also the realities faced by people who work in parishes.

Thus, for example, because most parish professionals work weekends at their parishes, Kollar's continuing education department has created a weekday program, Wednesdays at St. Bernard's, to make it easier for these professionals to attend events. Talks by major visiting speakers are also being scheduled when possible on weekdays.

The concentration of diocesan educational resources at one site has proved beneficial for education efforts in general, Kollar observed.

"We have a good relationship and we have easy access to each other," Kollar noted. "We can use each other's expertise in a variety of ways."

Deacon Stephen Graff, who directs the certification program, noted, for example, that the move has helped to centralize where classes are offered, and has given students greater access to such resources on the SBI campus as the Colgate Rochester Divinity School's library.

"I think it's also helped in the sense of identity" for the certificate and continuing education students, Deacon Graff said. "They see themselves as part of the St. Bernard's community."

The upcoming series on the sacraments and the Aug. 20-21 program at Keuka College focusing on the Eucharist are ex-

amples of ways in which the various departments housed at St. Bernard's are collaborating.

The continuing education department is also working with St. Bernard's to invite national speakers to Rochester, such as Father Richard McBrien on Oct. 18, and Elizabeth Johnson on Oct. 23, and to create such workshops as one Sept. 11 that will deal with keeping archives and creating a parish history.

The proximity of the various programs have also helped to encourage some people to move on from the continuing education and certification programs to graduate courses, Deacon Graff observed.

"I would say there are over 20 students at St. Bernard's who began in the certification program," the deacon estimated.

Kollar said the reverse has happened as well.

"Sometimes when people go to school and graduate, they have the idea that they are finished," Kollar explained. But contact with continuing education and certification students, she continued, offers a way for them to see "that you can still learn. It provides an incentive."

Kollar noted that her programs had been experiencing growth even before the move to St. Bernard's — especially after the Synod, which produced among its goals lifelong faith formation and the consistent life ethic. She cited May 14's Ministry Day success. The event drew some 500 people who wanted to learn more about the Eucharist, whereas previous ministry days had averaged about 250 attendees.

"I think people spoke loud and clear that they had a hunger for more education," Kollar said of the Synod.

In the diocese these days, more and more people are discovering they need only make "one stop" to help satisfy that hunger.

Child Care Guide

Child & Family Resource Center of Ontario & Yates Counties
Child Care
Resource & Referral
12 Gilbert St., Box 594
Rushville, NY
716-544-6846

The Rainbow Kids Christian Day Care
696 Ridge Rd.
Webster, NY
716-787-0900

State Street Day Care Center
100 State St.
Rochester, NY
716-263-3103

Town & Country Learning Center
36 Thornell Rd.
Pittsford, NY
716-248-21741

Trinity Lamb Day Care
3450 W. Ridge Rd.
Greece, NY
716-723-0562

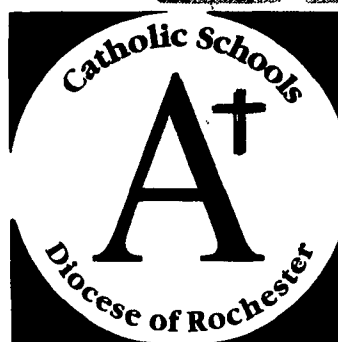
Rochester Children's Nursery

Since 1857
Nationally Accredited Program
• Toddler & Preschool Program
• Full Day Certified Kindergarten
• Before & After School Care
• Inclusionary Programs
• Summer Day Camp
• Spacious Playgrounds
941 South Avenue (716) 473-2858

Your Child's My Profession
Much More Than Day Care For Infants Through Age 12
• Flexible Hourly Rates
• State Lic. & Certified Teachers
• NAFCC Accredited
• Indoor & Outdoor Play Areas
• 6 am until midnight
• Transportation is Available
1015 W. Ridge Rd. • Rochester
716-234-0468

Imaginations Soar DAY CARE CENTER

3900 Dewey Avenue • Rochester
A Corporation Dedicated to Quality Care
Register Now For 1996-97 School Year
Before and After School
All Day Kindergarten
Certified Teacher,
Complete Curriculum,
No busing to and from day care.
Any school district
Preschool
Toddler and Infant
Some Summer camp openings available for full and flex time
CACFP, DSS, Sliding Scale
Hours 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM
663-5570 • 663-0375



Academic Excellence.

★
Self-discipline.

★
Value centered.

★
Acceptance of all people.

★
Parent Involvement.

★
Pre-kindergarten, elementary & middle school education.

★
Before and after school care.

★
For information, please contact a school near you or the Diocese of Rochester 328 3210

Quality Clothes at People Prices
Stop in and Browse • Something for Everyone

Casey's Closet
74 Main Street • Macedon, NY
(315) 986-2148
Hours: Mon. - Wed. 9 am-6 pm, Thurs. 12-8 pm
Fri. 9-6 pm Sat. 10-4 pm

School's in Session

Students of all ages will soon be returning to school. For some, this may be the first time they will be waiting for buses or walking to school while returning students may have forgotten the need to watch for traffic. Exercise extreme caution and watch for students going to or coming home from school.

Bonadio & Co. 1850 S. Winton Road Rochester • (716) 244-2000	Assemblyman Joseph Robach 2300 West Ridge Road Rochester (716) 255-4190
Eldridge, Fox & Poretti 135 Corporate Woods Rochester • (716) 427-8900	St. Mark's Church 54 Kuhn Road Rochester • (716) 225-3710
IMPCO 100 Rockwood Street Rochester • (716)374-1432	
The Jolt Company, Inc. 130 Linden Oaks Rochester • (716) 381-3560	

Please Drive Safely.