

Education

Catechesis packets address synod goal

By Kathleen Schwar
Copy editor/Staff writer

Karen Rinefierd has been evaluating feedback from parishes about the first year's batch of diocesan adult education resource packets, "Children no longer — Living Catholic in Today's World."

Amid the generally positive feedback, she's seen consistent praise for one feature of the packets: their versatility.

Since the first two sets of packets went out last fall and spring, 128 parishes have ordered their articles and packets to use in varied ways: St. Catherine's of Mendon referred to "How Adults Pray" during a staff day of reflection. St. Helen's in Rochester distributed "Reading Scripture" to parishioners to dovetail with a visit from St. Bernard's on the Road. Our Lady of Lourdes in Rochester featured a homily on "Ethical Practices in the Workplace," and distributed the article at the end of the Mass.

This fall Rinefierd, coordinator of young adult, adult and family faith formation, will send out the next set of packets, which will contain articles dealing with the centrality of the Eucharist, Christian perspectives of death and dying, and Christian parenting.

"We are in a big shift in catechesis, from emphasizing kids, to 'Catechesis is making disciples for Christ.' It goes on throughout your life," Rinefierd said.

However, she added, "Parishes were saying we don't have a lot of money and time to do adult education."

"For parents with three kids under the age of 4, a Tuesday night discussion of prayer is something they may like to do but aren't going to have the resources to do," she said.

But thanks to the adult education packets — either through receiving the articles, or excerpts printed in parish bulletins — they can read about prayer at their convenience, for example.

The articles in the packets are the work of such people as Sister Mary Louise Hefernan, SSJ, Marvin Mich, and Christine Bochen — of the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center, St. Bernard's Institute and Nazareth College, respectively. The articles are written at an 11th-grade reading level to reach a wider audience.

Because of the expense involved, the packets — offered free of charge and partially funded through Thanks Giving Appeal funds — aren't automatically sent to each parish. Rather, interested parishes must complete an order form. The parishes then make any copies they'd like for their members.

Judging from forms submitted with parishes' plans for how they will meet synod goals, the education packets are apparently helping parishes meet the synod priority of lifelong faith formation, Rinefierd noted.

Moreover, in offering the packets, the Diocese of Rochester is providing a form of education few other dioceses are offering, Rinefierd observed.

"We are at the cutting edge," she said.



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Sister Englert to coordinate WIN program



By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Using her background in Catholic education while at the same time being part of a brand-new program is, for Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, the best of both worlds.

Sister Englert has joined the diocesan Department of Catholic Schools as assistant superintendent for the Wegman Inner City (WIN) Voucher Program, which has been in effect for nearly one year.

"This is in the creative stage. I feel privileged to be in on the ground level," Sister Englert said.

She added that she was led to the position because it "sounded like something that would be an adventure and be exciting, and also use my gifts and talents."

Sister Englert will coordinate the WIN program, which operates at six Catholic elementary schools in Rochester:

Corpus Christi at Blessed Sacrament, 546 Oxford St.; Holy Family, 899 Jay St.; Holy Rosary, 420 Lexington Ave.; St. Andrew's, 901 Portland

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