Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Pat Privatera laces up during an Odyssey skating day at RIT Ritter Ice Arena Jan. 10.

Odyssey to offer more beyond Monroe County

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER – Odyssey, the diocesan-sponsored network for Catholics in their 20s and 30s, marked its first anniversary this month. The group plans to spend its second year expanding its scope of activities beyond Monroe County, according to Karen Rinefierd, diocesan coordinator for adult, young adult and family faith formation.

Few parishes outside Monroe County have formally organized young adult groups, Rinefierd noted. Meanwhile, Odyssey has only been able to attract a handful of Catholics from outside Monroe County to work on organizing its events, she said.

"I'm not seeing pockets of people rising forward," she said.

So at an all-day meeting last October, Odyssey's 13-member planning committee decided to focus on expanding the network's activities into Livingston, Wayne and Ontario counties this year, she said. As a start, Odyssey will host a day-long retreat at Onanda Park in Canandaigua, Ontario County, on Saturday, March 28.

"It's a more central location in the diocese," she said. "We hope to attract young adults from other regions."

The committee also plans to release a document this spring filled with tips for all diocesan parishes on how to reach out to young adults, Rinefierd added. Such tips would include making sure parish staff invite young adults to all parish events and liturgies.

In addition to its other new efforts, Rinefierd said Odyssey plans to work with college campus ministers this year to better meet the needs of incoming freshmen Catholics. For example, she said, parishes might be asked to send forms with information on young adult parishioners to the campus ministry staff of the college they are attending. Such information will help campus ministers do a better job of welcoming freshmen students into their new faith communities, she noted.

She added that several Odyssey members have volunteered to visit college campuses to talk with seniors about how to maintain their spiritual lives once they leave school.

"I look to the future with great anticipation given the strong talents that currently exists on the planning team, as well as the energy, commitment and sense of faith that I've come to see in the many people we've touched in the past year," Rinefierd concluded.

Upcoming events

Odyssey has slated several events and service activities over the next few weeks for young adults. Unless otherwise indicated, any questions regarding events should be directed to Karen Rinefierd at 716/328-3228, ext. 255, or 1-800-388-7177 (then press 1-5-375.)

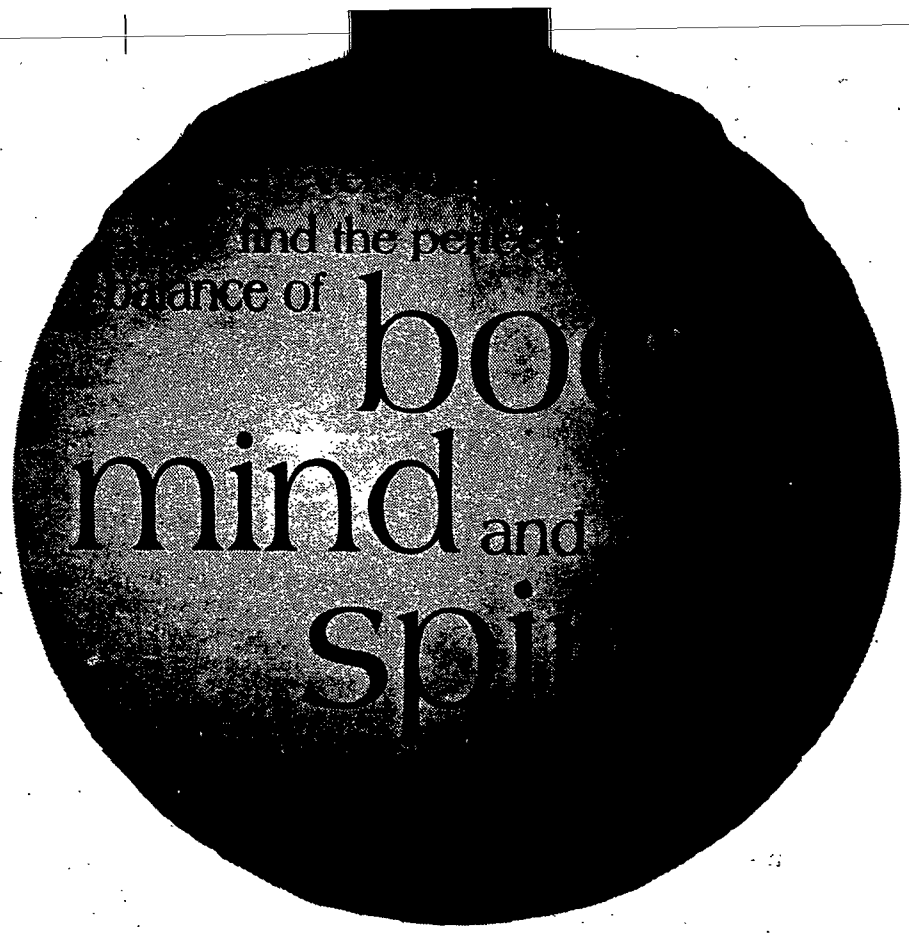
Odyssey is looking for volunteers to work at Blessed Sacrament Church's soup kitchen, 534 Oxford St., Rochester, on Tuesday, Jan. 27. People are needed to work in two shifts between 4 and 8:30 p.m. Odyssey also plans to send teams to the soup kitchen on March 10 and April 21. Call Tracy McCabe at 716/473-5328 or Cathy Daniels at 477-8716 for information.

A winter cabin party is slated for Saturday, Jan. 31, at 2 p.m. in Northampton Park, 304 Salmon Creek, Brockport. The day will include a prayer service, dinner and games. Cost is $10. Reservations are needed by Tuesday, Jan. 27.

Odyssey has a block of tickets set aside for a Rochester Amerks hockey game on Friday, Feb. 20, at 7:35 p.m. Tickets are $7, and orders are needed by Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Odyssey members will attend a Latin Tridentine Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, 1124 Hudson Ave., Rochester, on Sunday, Feb. 22, at 1:30 p.m. Members will meet at 1 p.m. and go out for a snack afterward. Call David Ferris at 315/986-9363 or Rinefierd.

Odyssey will be forming two prayer and Scripture study groups during Lent. One group will meet on Wednesday nights, March 4 to April 8 on the west side of Rochester. The other group will meet on Thursday nights, Feb. 26 to April 2 on the east side of the city. A facilitator will be provided for each group.



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