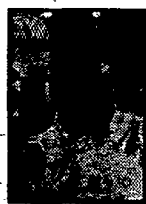


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# Catholic Courier

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SHARED STAFF  
YOUTH/YOUNG ADULT  
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TO FAITH COMMUNITIES



## Process raises key issues

The four diocesan Synod priorities — lifelong faith formation; the consistent life ethic; the role of women in church and society; and small Christian communities — surfaced from lengthy discussions at the parish and regional levels over a three-year period ending in 1993.

In the same vein, William Pickett said, major issues affecting Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium only arose after planning groups began meeting in June 1997.

"These weren't priorities originally, but it's come to that through the process," remarked Pickett, who serves as diocesan director of pastoral planning.

According to Pickett, these issues are:

- Evangelization.
- Outreach to non-parish faith communities, such as migrant and prison ministries.
- Communication among parishes.
- Ministry to youths and young adults.
- Centralized staffing within planning groups.

When the first parish groups in the three-year planning process begin implementation July 1, these priorities will be addressed in ways, at times, to which many parishioners in those groups are unaccustomed.

Among them are the hiring of such ministerial staff members as shared youth ministers

and business managers who will coordinate activities in those areas throughout entire planning groups, rather than individual parishes; regular appearances by Hispanic ministry representatives at Sunday Masses in suburban parishes; and a concentrated push to evangelize residents of city neighborhoods.

To make the best of these efforts, Father Paul Tomasso said, diocesan Catholics must be willing to at least partially break with tradition.

"We have a wonderful history, and we can be proud of our history. But we can't live in our history," said Father Tomasso, who is pastor of four churches on the city of Rochester's west side: Holy Apostles; St. Anthony of Padua; St. Francis of Assisi; and Ss. Peter and Paul.

These parishes will all begin their planning process next month — Ss. Peter and Paul as part of the 19th Ward/Corn Hill/Bull's Head group, and the other three churches as part of the Lyell-Otis/Dutchtown group. Implementation for both groups is due to begin in July 1999.

### Hitting the streets

Father Tomasso said that evangelization efforts are a big part of his pastoral-planning concerns. He remarked that his parishes recognize that the Catholic community is much more extensive than the faces seen in one's own church.

"We have to break down the old isolationism and parochialism. Finally, parochialism is a bad word," Father Tomasso emphasized. "We want to go door-to-door; we're concerned with doing

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STORY BY MIRELLA...