

# YOUNG ADULTS

## Group talks about fixing government



### Young Adult Events

For information on any of the following events, call the Odyssey hotline at 716/328-3228 or 1-800-388-7177, then press 1-5-375.

**Saturday, Sept. 26:** A group of young adults will be attending a performance of folk rockers Karen Savoca and Peté Heitzman at the 12 Corners Coffeehouse, 1200 S. Winton Road, Brighton, at 7:45 p.m. Admission: \$8.

**Sunday, Sept. 27:** Father Ted Auble will preside at a "dress-rehearsal Mass" at Newman Oratory at the State University of New York College at Brockport. The "Mass" will allow participants to ask questions about what is going on in the liturgy.

**Monday, Sept. 28:** Father Paul English will lead a discussion about young adults and the church at 7:30 p.m. in Church of the Good Shepherd, 3318 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta.

**Saturday, Oct. 3:** A group of young adults will be hiking in Leitchworth State Park. Call for details.

**Tuesday, Oct. 6:** A panel of youth ministers, married couples, volunteers and business consultants will discuss forms of ministry that do not entail taking vows, in Room 2 of St. Mark's Church, 54 Kuhn Road, Greece, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

**Sunday, Oct. 18:** Odyssey members will attend 10:45 a.m. Mass at St. Louis Church, Pittsford, and then accept donations, following Mass, on behalf of the Problem Pregnancy Center of Rochester. The Odyssey group will then have lunch at Hicks and McCarthy, 25 S. Main St., Pittsford, followed by shopping in town or a walk on the nearby Erie Canal.

**Thursday, Oct. 22:** Young adults will meet for 7 p.m. dinner at the Distillery Restaurant, 1142 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester.

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

PERINTON — Julie Sikorski, a parishioner at St. Lawrence Church in Greece, had just one question.

"Do any of these buffoons that we elect have the expertise to run the government?" she asked rhetorically.

Sikorski was reacting to the notion that government leaders somehow have far more expertise about the areas on which they legislate than do many of their constituents. The notion was just one of many she and six other Catholic young adults sat down to discuss on Sept. 20, at St. John of Rochester Church.

Sponsored by Odyssey, the diocesan young adults network, the discussion focused on three different ways to retool government.

Choice 1 was "Deinventing Government," essentially a call for privatization of most government services, a process in which private companies bid on contracts to deliver such services as trash collection and mass transit.

Choice 2 proposed "Reinventing Government" and called for turning power over from the federal government to state

and local authorities. The proposal also called for a reduction in influence by special interest experts and lobbyists, as well as limits on campaign spending.

Choice 3 proposed "Rediscovering Citizenship" and emphasized greater civic education of voters and promoting community organizations, forums and other items to encourage citizen involvement in politics.

For the most part, the participants in the St. John's discussion seemed to want a mix of all three choices in any attempt to reform the government. Several stressed that Catholic teaching calls for any reform of government to take into account its possible effects on the needy and the vulnerable. But participants were not of one voice when it came to how the government should address such concerns.

Scott Malouf, a parishioner at St. Mary's, Rochester, expressed some skepticism about the value of turning government services over to private companies.

"Privatization cherry-picks the best and leaves some other people (out)," he said. He added that politicians can reward inef-

ficient private companies with government contracts simply because such companies support an officeholder.

Others, however, argued that the private sector generally operates more cost-effectively than the government. Some participants added that money saved through privatization can be used to fund more services and recipients than possible when the government tries to run everything.

The group also discussed how important it was for a candidate to embody the church's values, and all participants agreed that no single issue — for example, abortion — determined how they voted for someone.

Tim Stiles, a Buffalo Catholic, noted that he might vote for a pro-choice candidate if that candidate wanted an office in which he or she would have no effect on the abortion issue.

Most of the young adults present agreed they had to look at where candidates stood on several issues before deciding whether to vote for them.

"You have to take the good with the bad," said Brian Donaldson, a parishioner at St. Mary's, Rochester.

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