

'French church' marks 150 years - Page 3



On The Move gets real 'hairy' - Page 6



Programs, video support life efforts - After Page 6



Catholic Courier

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 110 NO. 1 ■ THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1998 ■ 75¢ ■ 16 PAGES

SYNOD

Five years later

Activities advance goals

The diocese will host a national conference Oct. 15-18 on small Christian communities — SCCs — organizing for social change, at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. (See story Page 10)

Meanwhile, young Catholic women and teenagers have been voicing their concerns about their place in the church and society at a series of listening sessions at diocesan churches and schools. The final session was to take place Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton.

Both activities are among the hundreds of examples of how the October 1993 Diocesan Synod has strongly influenced what takes place in the diocese, according to diocesan and parish officials responsible for implementing the Synod's goals.

"There has been what I consider an incredible amount of energy and initiative given to the implementation of the four synod goals," commented Kathleen Cannon, coordinator of the diocese's Office of the Synod. "I'm awed and overwhelmed at the response given to them in good faith."

Indeed, it would take volumes to outline the numerous synod-related activities — from parish adult catechetical programs to conferences on the death penalty and physician-assisted suicide — that are directly or indirectly a result of the Synod.

Out of the synod process emerged the diocese's ongoing work to implement four goals by promoting (1) lifelong faith formation; (2) the consistent life ethic; (3) the dignity of women in church and society; and (4) SCCs. Several current and upcoming events point to how those goals are being promoted, not only separately, but in conjunction with one another.

For example, the upcoming SCC conference in Canandaigua advances synod goal 2, promoting the consistent life ethic, and synod goal 4, promoting SCCs. Meanwhile, the listening sessions for women promote goal 3, advancing the dignity of women in church and society.

Cannon is currently on temporary leave from her position while she serves on the interim administrative team at Corpus Christi Church. In an interview prior to her appointment to the team, she told the *Catholic Courier* that the diocese plans to begin evaluating the Synod's implementation in January. When that is completed, the evaluation may mean some synod goals will be "folded into" the diocese's overall mission, she said, whereas new goals may be outlined depending on what parishes and faith communities want.



Continued on page 10

STORY BY ROB CULLIVAN

well as
pers.
noted
rating
cies in
gainst
school
about
opers.
s exist
n said
have
out a
dents,
aving
lives."
d the
rools"
ar-old
ago.
for
he
tholic
chool
High
that
likely
ably
y, but
nted
of St.
thing
was
word

S
ND
net