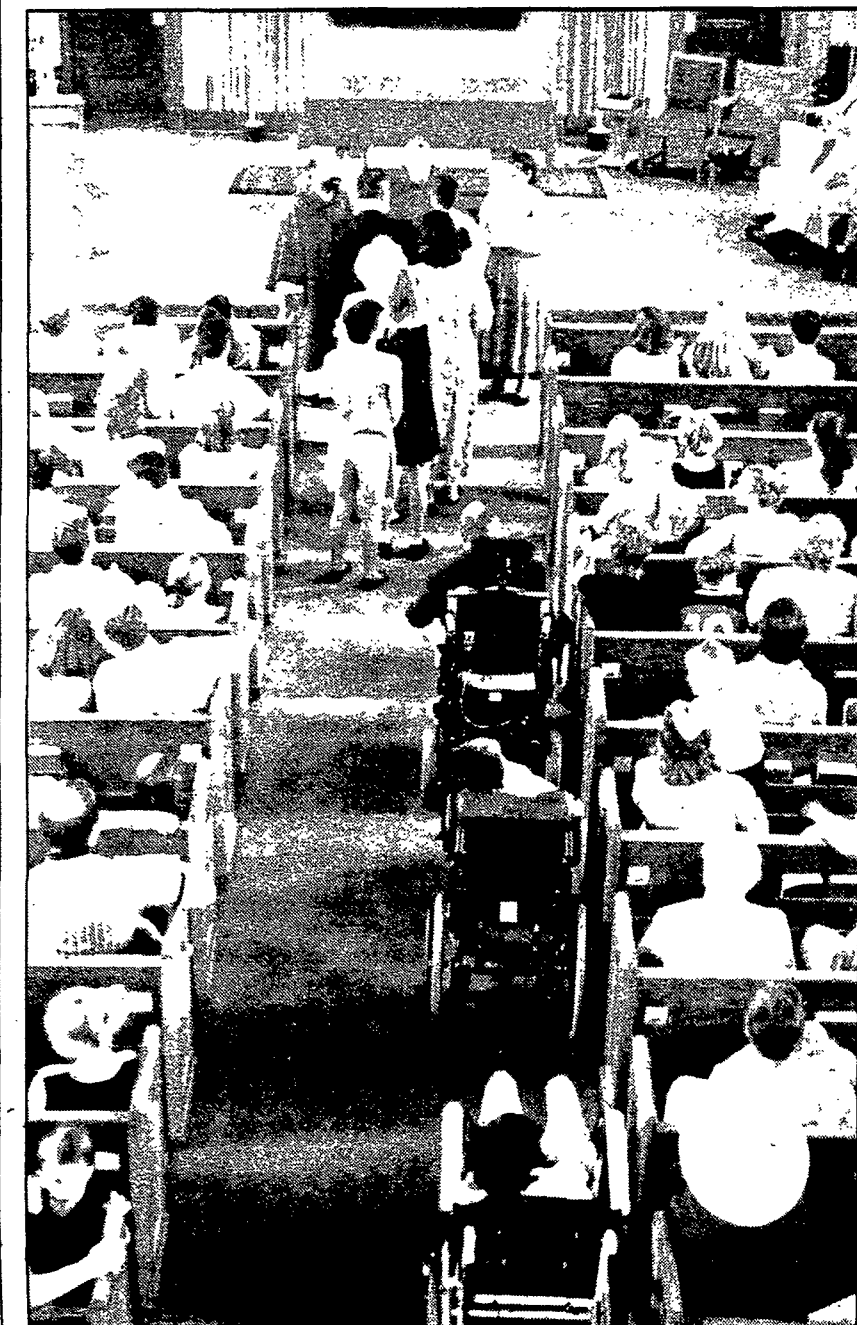


DIOCESAN NEWS



Five special confirmations



Among the 26 people confirmed in Scottsville's St. Mary of the Assumption Church Sunday, June 13, five were developmentally disabled individuals from the Finger Lakes Developmental Disabilities Service Office. Far left, wheelchairs line the aisle of St. Mary's during the confirmation service. Above, Bishop Clark anoints Marie Pulcino during the ceremony. Left, Sue Donoghue helps her brother Robert Robson afterward at the reception for the confirmands.

PHOTOS BY MIKE MERGEN

Innovative catechetical consultant will retire on July 2

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

CATES — Mary H. Britton, catechetical consultant to the Diocese of Rochester's Department of Evangelization and Catechesis for the past seven years, will retire from her position July 2.

No replacement has been named yet.

In an interview in her office at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, Britton cited a desire to spend more time with her family and on leisure activities as the main reason she decided to retire.

"I feel I've contributed what I can to this particular job in the church," she said.

As consultant to the evangelization department, Britton played a key role in implementing diocesan synod goal No. 1: lifelong faith formation. The goal actually combined two goals that had been chosen

by delegates to the 1993 Diocesan Synod — lifelong religious education and Catholic moral education.

Britton's office worked with parishes and other diocesan institutions to expand the scope of their catechetical efforts to include not only elementary and high school students, but also adults and families. To that end, Britton worked on revising the diocesan religious-education curriculum, and on creating new catechetical programs to be used outside traditional classroom settings with families and children.

Britton also worked to implement a new catechist-formation and certification process that has led to the formal certification of about 700 parish catechists since the synod took place. A diocesan certification process had existed in the 1970s and the early '80s, she said, but it died off several years before she arrived.

"I think it has raised awareness of the importance of their ministry," she said of certifying catechists. "Certifying them recognizes the work that they do."

Britton said that all catechists now working in the diocese take core courses in religious education so that they can accurately present church doctrine.

Britton added that the diocese allows catechists to undergo formation in a number of ways, including at-home study using videotapes. This innovation has enabled many people to become catechists whose schedules or lifestyles don't allow them to attend formal classes, she said.

Maribeth Mancini, diocesan director of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, praised Britton for her service to parishes and catechists.

"Her work with parish catechetical programs and parish catechetical leaders

was vital," Mancini said. "Her vision and expertise ... have helped us advance an integrated plan for lifelong faith formation. Mary is a woman of wisdom and compassion. We'll miss her."

Prior to working for the diocese, Britton served as religious education coordinator at three parishes: Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta, from 1986 to 1992; Church of the Resurrection, Fairport, from 1984 to 1986; and St. Vincent de Paul Church, Corning, from June to December of 1976.

Married with three grown children and three grandchildren, Britton said she plans to spend more time on such leisure activities as traveling, as well as gardening with her husband, John.

"Our gardens look like they haven't been weeded in 15 years," she said with a laugh.

Recognizing

★ **Theresa Osborne** of Midlakes Middle School won Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes' poster contest to name the new teen pregnancy prevention program the agency coordinates in Ontario County. Her winning name was "Choose Wisely Now." Tied for second were **Vanessa Carlson** of Midlakes Middle School and **Eli Lopez** of Geneva's North St. Elementary School. **Caitlin Riley** of North St. Elementary took third.

★ **Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira**, has renamed its parish center in memory of **Father Paul J. McCabe**. Father McCabe was pastor of the parish for 20 years before his sudden death Aug. 25, 1998.

★ **Tyde Wells** was named the St. Joseph's Hospital employee of the month for February; **Carolyn Ladou**, for March; and **Mary Krebs**, for April. Krebs directs the Patient Care Evaluation De-

partment at the Elmira hospital, Ladou is physical therapy coordinator and Wells is security supervisor.

★ **Patrick Boland**, received the Small Business Philanthropy Award, and **Timothy Bennett**, **Jane Hoagland** and **Peggy Eastburn** received Spirit Awards at the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation's 8th Annual Spirit Awards Dinner April 8. Boland has given \$10,000 in gifts to the hospital since 1992; Bennett, Hoagland and Eastburn were honored in the physician, health-care professional and volunteer categories, respectively.

★ **Mildred and Alfred Boylan** and **Annette and Paul DeCarolis** received the 1999 Lumina*Lux Awards presented to "graduates of the Nazareth Schools who exemplify the Nazareth mission of bringing light to the lives of others by caring for the community," at a May 11 dinner.

★ **Bishop Kearney High School** announced June 8 it will rename its reno-

vated gym the **Edmund J. Nietopski Gymnasium** in honor of retiring baseball coach **Ed Nietopski**. Nietopski will continue to coach basketball at the Irondequoit school.

★ **Doug Mandelaro**, religion writer for the *Democrat and Chronicle* and a member of St. Joseph Parish, Penfield, received the 1999 Metropolitan Award for Faith in Action from the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, at a June 8 dinner.

★ **Christina Hopkins**, a member of Auburn's **St. Alphonsus Parish**, has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. The award — which symbolizes accomplishments in the areas of leadership, community service, career planning and personal development — was given to only 14 girls in the 13-county jurisdiction of the Girl Scouts Seven Lakes Council.

★ **Tara Lally** and **The Nazareth Academy Dance Company** won multiple awards at The West Coast Explosion

competition in Boston Feb. 20. Lally was named "Miss Teen Dance Explosion" and was eligible to advance to the national competition. She and fellow dancer **Christina Spring** won a gold medal for a duo performance. The company won two other gold medals and four silver medals.

★ **Auburn's St. Joseph's School's** first-grade class won first place in the 7th District Dental Society's poster contest. The class, taught by **Kathleen Morgan**, was assisted by art teacher **Rebecca Moshaty**.

★ **Danielle Adamski**, **Gregory Chomicz**, **Lauren Firlit**, **Karen Kurycki**, **Annette Malec**, **Marta Michael**, **Kari Plandowski**, **Marta Sobotka**, **Anete Waliszewski** and **Laura Zygo** received four-year, \$1,000 per year scholarships from the Rochester Polish People's Homes, Inc., and from funds established in the memories of **Stanley Broki** and **Irene Skahy**.