

# Diocesan leader empowers the laity



Bishop Matthew H. Clark did not invent lay ministry. The Second Vatican Council was responsible for promoting the recognition that baptism is actual-

ly a sacrament of mission and ministry. This means that every baptized Christian is called to carry on the ministry of Christ through the community of the church.

As I see it, Bishop Clark's role regarding lay ministry in our particular local church of the Diocese of Rochester is characterized by two significant traits that dominate his response to everything: He listens carefully to what those around him are telling him about their needs and aspirations in faith, and then he invites.

In this, he exemplifies the very best of pastoral leadership. He is not interested in imposing a predetermined scheme or plan on others. In fact, it is quite the opposite here. He is interested in hearing what others are saying about things. And then he invites us to take up a role in making the vision reality. I can't



Eric Sucar/Catholic Courier

Candidates receiving master of arts degrees in pastoral studies from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry were asked to stand and be recognized by the audience during their graduation ceremony May 14 at St. Mary's Church in Rochester.



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