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### Open House at Retreat House

Notre Dame Retreat House, 246 Alexander St. Rochester, will hold open house Sunday, June 30, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Redemptorist Fathers who staff the House and the Laymen's Retreat League will sponsor the open house program in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help whose feast occurs June 27. The famous picture, shown above, is a special devotion of the Redemptorist priests who have the original painting in their church in Rome. Prayers will be said for Pope Paul VI whose coronation ceremony is scheduled for Sunday afternoon and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be given in the Retreat House garden at 4:30 p.m.

### Comment on Court Decision

## Ritual Out, Religion Stays

New York — (RNS) — Upwards of 50 per cent of all U.S. school districts will be affected by the Supreme Court ruling holding unconstitutional Bible readings and the recitation of the Lord's Prayer at devotional acts in the public schools.

The effect will be felt first in the South and East where, traditionally, a great majority of schools opened the day's program with prayer or Bible passages.

Churchmen and journalists have accurately forecast the Court's decision, the ruling occasioned no great surprise. The decision came at an opportune time — the period when most of the nation's school children were to begin long summer vacations. For that reason there would be no "abrupt halt" to traditions ruled to be unconstitutional as "religious ceremonies." In most cases, the change in procedure would occur 10 or more weeks away, in September when the 1963-64 school year begins.

Most state education officials promised quick adherence to the Court's ruling. Others asked attorneys general and law advisers for interpretations.

In South Carolina, however, the state's education leader said he intended to ignore the decision. "It's rather regrettable that the matter has come up," said Jess Anderson, state superintendent of education.

"South Carolina will continue to feel free to do in each school classroom the normal thing which the teacher feels should be done," he said.

Mr. Anderson noted that the state has no legislation or regulation requiring school prayers. However, he added, the prayers are said in many schools throughout the state.

In Pennsylvania, Dr. Charles H. Boehm, superintendent of public instruction, said "we interpret this decision to mean the elimination of religious rituals and rites, but God and religion will remain in the schools."

He told newsmen he would recommend that Pennsylvania schools begin their opening exercises with a period of silent meditation, followed by inspirational music, art or literature.

"This opening period," he said, "should recast our heritage, aspirations, great moments in our history, beauty in all its forms, and ethical and moral values."

Dr. Boehm added that "we are going to consult with scholars from the four major religions, and other scholars on important matters of religion and the curriculum" to cope with the Court's edict.

(Pennsylvania was one of the states involved in the Court's decision in the 1957 case of *Murray v. Currier*.)

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## DeSales Graduates Honor Sr. Mary Ellen

Geneva — De Sales High School 85-member senior class paid special honor to faculty member Sister Mary Ellen recently at the traditional senior class banquet in Lafayette.

SENIORS THIS year dedicated their yearbook, the 1963 Edition, to Sister Mary Ellen who for the past five years has served as advisor to the yearbook staff.

She was presented the first copy of the banquet following the reading of the dedication by co-editor Joe Hart.

The dedication in part described Sister Mary Ellen as... a woman who has sacrificed much in our behalf and has left her impression on our souls.

Guest speaker at the banquet was the Rev. Raymond E. Nolan, C.O.S.B.

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### Home For Visit

Sister Paul Francis (Olivia Mariani) was home for a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mariani of St. John's parish, Greece. She will be medical technologist at St. John's Hospital, Springfield, Ill., staffed by Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Sister Paul Francis attended Holy Rosary school, Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College.

### Mercy Student At Girls' State

At the 22nd annual session of Girls' State being held at the State University campus at Cortland June 21-29, Mercy's delegate is junior Mary Anna Shepleman. She is being sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion.

Purpose of Girls' State is to show the youth of the nation that a well-informed citizen is one of the best steps our country has.

The girls form their own government, electing a governor and representatives. Mercy's last delegate, Sue Kennedy, '61 was selected for the post of Secretary of State.

The student chosen as the school's delegate to Girls' State must be a junior in high school and must have qualities of scholarship, leadership and sportsmanship.

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