

On Elementary Level

Enrollment Drop Linked To Reduced Class Size

Reduction in class size was the main reason for a large enrollment drop in the elementary schools of the Diocese of Rochester this year.

figures from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools' Office. Total elementary enrollment as of Oct. 1, 1965 showed 45,535 students, compared to 46,832 students in October of 1964.

A Diocesan school ruling effective last September limited class size to 45 students in classrooms. This was the biggest single reason for the overall reduction in school enrollment, a spokesman for the Schools Office stated.

"Families moving to the suburbs" was also noted as a reason for lower enrollments in many city schools. This was noted in school reports from such Rochester parishes as Holy Redeemer, St. Boniface and Mt. Carmel.

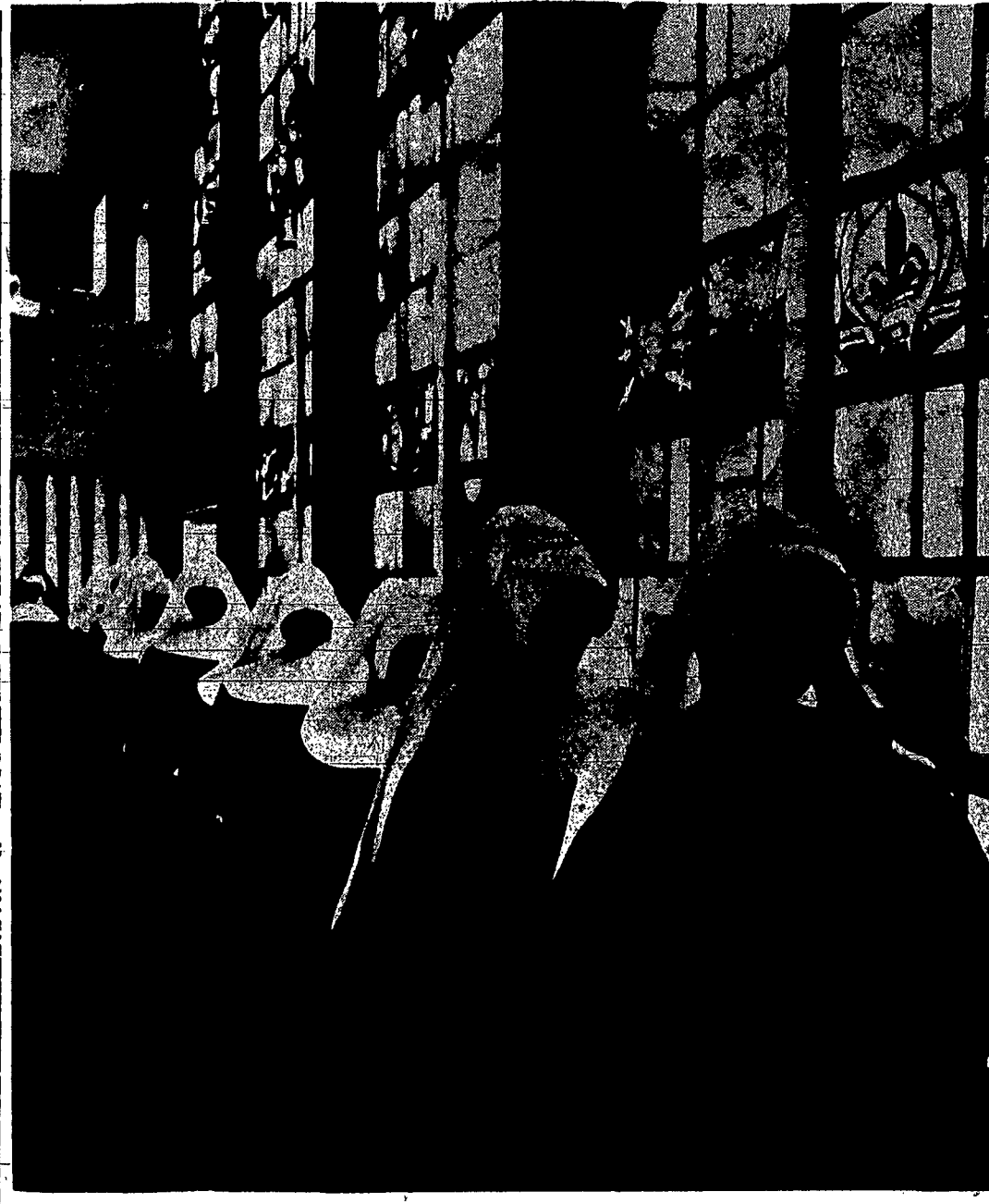
High School Total Rises

High school enrollment was a different story, however, with a total gain of 225 students throughout the Diocese. Big gainers were the two newest high schools, Bishop Kearney in Irondequoit and Cardinal Mooney in Greece. They gained 345 and 336 pupils respectively, as they reached their full enrollment of 4 years for the first time. Nazareth Academy, which had been admitted overcrowded, dropped back to an enrollment of 1082 this year, 798 less than in 1964. Most of the other Diocesan high schools showed a somewhat smaller enrollment than the previous year.

Total high school enrollment in the Diocese now stands at 10,422 students, compared to 10,194 the year before.

Council Implications

Edmonton—(NC)—A study course on the implications of the Vatican Council for priests, Sisters and laymen will be sponsored in Edmonton and Calgary for 13 weeks starting next month by the Western Catholic Reporter newspaper and the Catholic Information Centers of the two dioceses.



Serenity

White and Negro nuns make a picture of tranquility as they pray in the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Family in New Orleans.

Enrollment Drops Again

Providence—(NC)—For the second consecutive year, enrollment in Rhode Island Catholic schools has decreased, according to results of an annual survey of parochial schools.

The current enrollment of 47,597 represents a drop of 2,034 from 1964. The decline is almost double that of last year, when enrollment dropped 1,097 from 1963.

CCD Courses Slated For Fishers, Helpers

CCD Courses for Fishers and Helpers will be held on four consecutive Mondays at the Assumption School of Religion, 10 Baumer Place in Fairport from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. conducted by Sister M. Judene, M.H.S.H.

On Jan. 10 and 17 the class will be exclusively for prospective Fishers; on Jan. 24 and 31 the class will be exclusively for prospective Helpers.

There is no fee for the course. No advance registration, but registration on the night of the class. All untrained and prospective Fishers and Helpers are welcome.

In Latin America

War on Clergy Poverty

By DONALD BROPHY

Washington—(NC)—A major stumbling block in the work of diocesan priests will be overcome in Latin America when priests have financial security to assist them in sickness and old age.

Father Joseph Kuhl, a German-born missionary to Chile and the director of a pilot project aimed at solving this crucial problem, predicted here that its solution would result in a dramatic improvement in the Latin American Church. Among the benefits to be gained:

• Parents would drop their objection to priestly vocations for their sons once the burden of poverty is lifted from the

priesthood. Thus the number of vocations would increase.

• Bishops would have the financial means to retire before they are slowed by age, thus insuring the Church a younger and more dynamic leadership.

• Priests would no longer seek avidly for fees to tide them through sickness and declining years. Their motivation and the people's image of them would be spiritualized.

• Diocesan priests would lose any lingering resentment of priests sheltered in religious orders, leading to greater cooperation and harmony.

Interviewed here, Father Kuhl said the grinding poverty of the vast majority of Latin American priests is a "tragic problem" and one that must not continue any longer.

"It is too much to expect that priests and bishops live like St. Francis of Assisi," he said. "It is not necessary that all of them be saints. They are men like all of us, and they must have a certain level of security."

Under Father Kuhl's direction, diocesan priests in Chile next year will be compulsory members of a fund called "Paz Chile"—a kind of private medical and social security program that will lift the most pressing financial burden from diocesan priests.

Under the program, approved

Parish Councils Strengthen Unity

Cincinnati—(NC)—Parish "coordinating councils" with priests, nuns and laymen as members offer a significant means of implementing the decisions of the Vatican Council, a specialist in lay organizations said here.

This view was expressed by Daniel J. Kane, assistant executive secretary of the Cincinnati Archdiocesan Councils of Catholic Men and Women. He noted in an interview that self-study committees within the two groups have been discussing the idea of parish coordinating councils in recent months.

KANE SAID the membership of such a council would include the pastor and school principal, heads of lay organizations, and other competent persons. Represented would be such groups as the Holy Name Society and Rosary-Altar societies or their counterparts, the parent-teacher association, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, St. Vincent de Paul Society and other organizations active in the parish.

"Such a council would enable the pastor to keep in touch with the organizations and would enable the organizations themselves to relate to each other," Kane said. "It would lead to a more effective use of available manpower and ought to be a means of achieving a greater measure of unity in the parish."

The council would also enable pastor and parishioners to "work out a consensus of parish needs together," he added.

Calling closer clergy-laity relations "one of today's great needs," Kane added:

"If the Second Vatican Council is to be implemented in the spirit of the present time, when frank, face-to-face discussion is common in the secular society, the same kind of discussion must take place within the Church."

"In the parish coordinating council the pastor can help interpret Vatican II for the lay leaders of the parish and in turn receive from them insights and interpretations of the real needs of people."

"Now that the council is over," he said, "there lies ahead the job of explaining its relevance to the lives of the people of God. The spirit that should permeate this work is the same that permeated the council—one of openness, on the part of the clergy and the

laity, in searching out the meanings of the decrees and constitutions."

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