

Holy Day Holidays End Eyed for Parish Schools

Catholic schools in Chemung County are facing the end of religious feast days as school holidays, in a move to accommodate these lives more closely to the local public school calendar.

Recommendation for a 1967-68 school calendar matched with that of the public schools, except for an earlier closing date of June 14, was voted unanimously at the recent meeting of the Chemung County Catholic School Board March 8.

The recommended calendar would have the schools in session on religious holidays other than Christmas and Easter vacations. No additional school holidays may be given by pastor or principal, another departure from tradition.

Another advantage of the uniform calendar would be to avoid public school bus transportation of parochial school students on public school holidays.

Representatives of the Catholic schools in Chemung County met with local public school superintendents March 13 to coordinate the calendars.

Report of an analysis of withdrawals from Catholic schools in Chemung County was also made at the meeting. Enrollment dropped 10 per cent this past year.

Of the 293 pupils who withdrew, 83 moved from the county, 136 transferred to public schools, 40 transferred to other parochial schools, eight left because of illness, and the reason for 26 was unknown.

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Vol. 78 No. 24
Friday, March 17, 1967
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LOCAL NEWS SECTION

Kolping Mass

Monsignor Charles V. Boyle, Praeses of the Catholic Kolping Society, will offer a Requiem Mass for Redemptorist Father Michael G. Downing, Saturday, March 18, at 10 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt St., Rochester.

Father Downing was spiritual director of the Rochester Branch of the Kolping Society from August 1961 until December 1966. A special invitation is extended to friends of Father Downing to attend this Mass.

Put the Pupils Where the Schools Are!

Put the pupils where the schools are!

That was the quite logical conclusion diocesan school officials came to this week.

Faced with the increasing number of youngsters in some parishes in Rochester and more and more vacant classrooms in other parishes, the school authorities decided it makes more sense to bus ride the pupils to the existing classrooms rather than build costly new schools.

The bus plan will be voluntary — and include attractive benefits.

Details of the plan were spelled out at a press conference Wednesday by Monsignor William M. Roche, diocesan superintendent of schools.

Children of any parish in Rochester may choose to go to

either Immaculate Conception school or Holy Redeemer school — kindergarten through eighth grade.

"Enriched programs" in science, mathematics, languages, arts and social sciences will be available for "gifted" pupils, Monsignor Roche said, as also a compensatory education program for the educationally disadvantaged.

The classes will, of course, be racially integrated.

The plan parallels that of public school officials also announced this week.

Father Daniel Brent, associate superintendent of diocesan schools, explained the purpose for the Catholic "Reverse Plan" in the following statement to Courier:

This week's announcement of

parallel Reverse Open Enrollment Plans made by officials of the Catholic and public schools of Rochester represents the latest step in a brief but unique history of cooperation. Contacts have been frequent and cordial between Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Roche, Superintendent of Schools for the Rochester Diocese, and Herman R. Goldberg, Superintendent of the Rochester City School District.

"Since the advent of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act two years ago, our staffs have regularly planned together. It has been a model of the constructive kind of partnership that is possible in American education today," Monsignor Roche said.

Under the Reverse Open Enrollment Plan of the Diocese, students on waiting lists for space in their local parish

school may enroll at Immaculate Conception or Holy Redeemer Schools. The program is also aimed at recruiting students interested in special quality, integrated education. Educators in the area have frequently expressed the conviction that children raised and educated in areas with little or no mixed racial contact are receiving a stunted education. "Provision of transportation, special pupil services and hot lunches through the cooperation of the City School District was essential to the initiation of this project," according to Monsignor Roche.

"We also received this kind of cooperation in the implementation of the textbook law. The City School District was among the first to devise a system for handling the textbook requests of students in Catholic schools," Father Brent's statement concludes.

Cooperation has not been a one-way street. Programs made possible by Federal aid funds have been designed through a pooling of ideas, frequently leading to joint projects bringing like services to both school systems. In addition, Catholic school personnel have been made available to community educational endeavors. Sr. M. Jamesetta, S.S.J. has served as co-director for the Lighted Schoolhouse during its two years of activity. Sr. M. Joanne, R.S.M., has directed the summer Headstart programs which provide readiness experiences for pre school children. Sr. M. James, S.S.J. is currently on loan to the Rochester City School District. She is assisting in the preparations for project "UNIQUE," Rochester's ambitious and dramatic experiment in urban education.



Miss Murphy, Montessori teacher at Nardin Academy, Buffalo, building words with 3-year-old youngsters.



Sister Rosalita with child at the Bede School in New Jersey.

From Classroom Sex Education to Begin To Army --- And Back Again

For St. Monica's Army-bound fifth grade teacher, Paul P. Anastasi, it was "now you see him, now you don't, now you do," this week.

Despite repeated efforts by school officials to get the young teacher deferred until the end of the school semester, Anastasi, 39, High St., was en route to Fort Bragg in North Carolina last Monday. He arrived there to report in, only to find that he had been deferred, after all.

Congressman Frank Horton of Rochester's 36th Congressional district had finally contacted the commanding general of the Army's Second Corps, who decided that St. Monica's needed the teacher more than the Army—at least until semester's end.

Sister Marie Emily, principal of St. Monica's school, had secured a temporary replacement for Anastasi, due to start six months training as an active reservist. The substitute graciously bowed out of the picture, however, to allow Anastasi to rejoin his fifth graders.

Easter Sale At Van Etten

A baked food sale will be held at St. Plus X Church, Van Etten, Holy Saturday, March 25, from 10 a.m. Holiday cakes and other foods will be available, including a full-dinner Easter basket.

Children in Catholic schools of the Diocese will begin to be instructed in "the facts of life" starting at the kindergarten level, school officials announced this week.

Bishop Sheen authorized the sex education program at a meeting Tuesday at the Chancery.

Dr. Gerard T. Guerinot, Rochester obstetrician, is chairman of a committee of priests, nuns and lay people who have been at work for a year setting up the plan, first of its kind in any diocesan school system in the nation.

Law Secretaries Meet Tomorrow

A judge, a government official, a minister, and a businessman will participate in a seminar, "Boundaries Unlimited," sponsored by the Monroe County Legal Secretaries Association on Saturday, March 18, at St. John Fisher College's St. Basil Hall.

Discussions on the seminar's afternoon panel will be: Hon. Joseph G. Fritsch, Administrative Judge of the Monroe County Family Court; Lloyd L. Hurst, State Commissioner on Human Rights; Rev. George Hill, Pastor of the Lake Avenue Baptist Church; and Russell Chappel, Manager of Xerox Corporation's personnel and information planning department. Richard C. Scott, a vice-president at Marine Midland Trust Company, will moderate.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files, March 19, 1942)
Defense stamps and savings bonds purchased by pupils in and out of schools amounted to \$92,191.75, the Catholic Schools office reported.

Bishop Kearney dedicated the new chapel in Our Lady of the Lake Mission and Retreat House on Lochland Road, Geneva.
More than 350 guests heard Andrew C. McCarthy, Bronx assistant D.A. warn that the destiny of the United States rested in the spiritual training given the youth of this country. He spoke at the Knights of Columbus dinner.

Nuns to Open Montessori School

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester — active in widely varied educational works in this Diocese for over 100 years — will enter one of the newest fields of education when they open their Montessori School in September of this year.

This school, to be open to children of any religious faith, will hold only morning classes for the first year, running three hours, five days a week, for approximately twenty-five children between the ages of 2.9 and 3.9 as of this coming September.

Location of the school has not yet been determined.

DIRECTOR of the school will be Sister Rosalita, S.S.J., who is now completing her training in the American Montessori method at the well known Bede School in Englewood, New Jersey. Her formal course work was done at Fairleigh Dickinson University, one of the three training centers for the American Montessori Society in this country.

Previous to this specialized training, Sister Rosalita taught for six years at Sacred Heart Cathedral School and one year at St. Lucy's School in Rochester, and worked in the Headstart Program at School 14 and Eastside Community House during the summer of 1965. She has a B.A. degree from Nazareth College of Rochester and, at the end of this school year, will hold the Montessori Diploma which gives her complete accreditation to direct a Montessori School.

Two other Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters Lelia and Maureen, are taking the Montessori Teacher Training Course at Xavier University in Cincinnati during the summers and will in the future be added to the staff of the Rochester school.

The Montessori method of teaching and learning was devised by Dr. Maria Montessori in Italy at the turn of the cen-

tury; it was introduced into this country shortly before World War I, but did not really begin to flourish until about ten years ago. Since then, its spread and success have been most impressive, largely through the efforts of young parents who saw the value of its methodology and made great sacrifices to establish it in this country.

Dr. Montessori believed that the very young child intensely desires to learn. If his environment and activities stimulate and guide this desire, he will gain a joy of learning, a self-motivation, and an inner discipline that he will never lose.

Parents desiring more information or wishing to request applications may contact Sister Florentine at 586-1628 or Sister Mary Patrice at 381-4632, or leave a message at 586-6128. Priority in acceptance is based upon the return of the application-blanks. On May 13 and 14, Sister Rosalita will come up from New Jersey to conduct the parent and child interviews, upon which final acceptance is determined.

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Sisters Florentine, Rosalita and Mary Patrice discuss Montessori items they're ordering from Holland.



Bishop Sheen Visits Auburn

St. Mary's Church, Auburn, was filled to overflowing when Bishop Sheen made his first visit to that city Thursday, March 10. He is shown with Father John Walsh and Father Michael Hogan as he greeted people at church steps following the Mass. (Photo by Tarby)

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