

More Lay Teachers Than Nuns In Parish Schools This Fall

Lay teachers will outnumber nuns in the elementary schools of the Rochester Diocese for the first time when school opens next September.

The Catholic Schools office expects to have 546 nuns staffing grammar schools next fall while the number of lay teachers is expected to be approximately 650.

Last fall, sisters numbered 51% of the total elementary school teachers in the diocese.

The two largest teaching orders, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy, have both announced that they will have fewer nuns available for elementary school posts.

The St. Joseph nuns will assign 35 fewer teachers at this level (from 350 to 315); the Mercy nuns total will decline from 203 to 180, 23 less than last year.

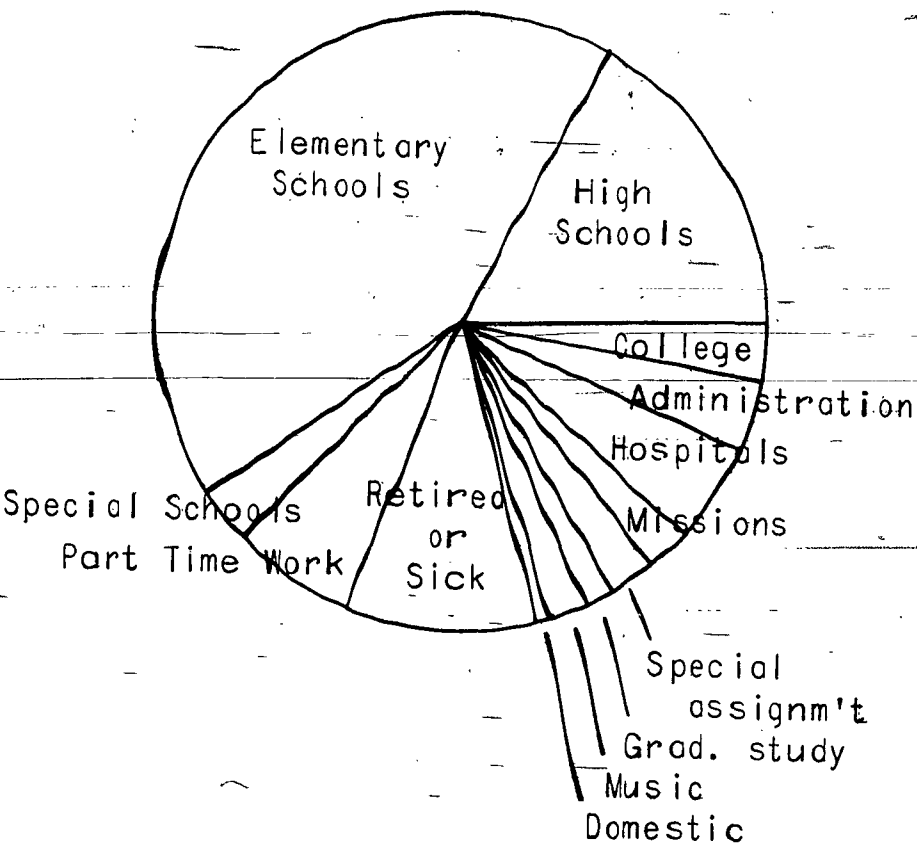
A study of the proposed allocation of nuns from both religious communities for next September shows that both groups are extending themselves to cover several vital needs.

Both are adding to their South American mission staffs, the Mercy Sisters sending one more nun to their outpost in Santiago, Chile, while the St. Joseph congregation will send five more nuns to their mission in Brazil.

Both are giving more sisters to fulltime work in the Confraternity

of Christian Doctrine (CCD) program: seven more St. Joseph sisters and three more Mercy sisters.

Both orders noted smaller numbers of postulants entering in the past few years, and a larger number of nuns leaving their communities after first vows, in reassessing their commitments for next year.



WHERE THE SISTERS ARE — Graph supplied by the Catholic Schools Office indicates how the personnel of religious sisters are now allocated in the diocese. While the greater part of the sisters are still engaged in elementary schools (546 in September) and high schools (212 in September), an increasing number are in foreign missions, special assignments (Newman or CCD work) and special schools (like Holy Childhood or the Montessori school). Most of the sisters in part time work are older nuns or those limited by health problems.



FATHER LE VEQUE

Father Le Veque Dies Suddenly

by John DeMoate

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One parish held a public celebration of the Sacrament of Penance, a renewal of an ancient Christian custom, but tailored to modern usage.

"Early bird" Easter Sunday services, long a Protestant preserve, were available to Catholics locally this year. St. Louis Church in Pittsford, for one, held its Easter Vigil starting at 5:30 Sunday morning. A number of Catholics in the Gates-Chili area joined Protestant neighbors for an ecumenical sunrise service at Elser's Grove on Buffalo Road, starting at 6:30.

The latter service was engineered by "emerging laymen" from five churches in the Gates-Chili area. It was a development of a Living-Room Dialog group which had been meeting for some time. Francis Bradley of the ecumenism department of the Rochester Area Council of Churches spoke on "Easter and Ecumenism" at this service.

"Secular Stations" — The contemporary Way of the Cross on Good Friday afternoon took two busloads of people on an unusual pilgrimage. An ecumenical venture sponsored by the Catholic Servant of God community, the three-hour tour was described as a journey to "honor the Son of Man by seeking Him in the City of Man."

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Area Adds Notes to Easter Song

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which in some way reflected the most cogent social problems of the day, and accented ways by which men are trying to solve them.

"The cross of war" was symbolized by a stop at the downtown Federal Building, while a companion stop at a Quaker meeting house dramatized peace efforts. Another stop, at the Pittsford Town Hall, dwelt on the problem of "segregated suburban culture," while stops at St. Martin de Porres Center and St. Bridget's Church highlighted efforts at helping minority groups in the inner city.

The participants debarked at each stop, heard a brief meditation on the "secular station," and responded with appropriate prayers. The pilgrimage began and ended at McQuaid High School.

Representatives of several Protestant churches, notably Lake Avenue Baptist Church and Christ Claron Presbyterian Church, joined the Catholic sponsors of the trip on the unique Way of the Cross.

Communal Penance — Parishioners of Father Thomas Redington's Holy Name of Jesus parish underlined their Holy Week activities with a "communal celebration" of the Sacrament of Penance on Holy Saturday morning.

Noting that Penance in the early Church was a public affair, a preparatory letter to parishioners from the priests and sisters of the new Greece parish explained:

"We would hardly want to return to the early discipline, but we do need a clearer understanding of the fact that every sin is not only an offense against God, but the whole community..."

Assembling for a 10:30 a.m. service, the parishioners heard several Scripture readings which stressed the communal effects of man's sinfulness, and others which stressed God's mercy in welcoming sinners returning to "their Father's house."

Eight priests were available for private confessions, which took place

Housing Unit Asks Homes For Leasing Auburn Reacts Patiently To Report on Schools

by ALEX MACDONALD

The Rochester Housing Authority is seeking standard housing units which could be leased by the authority and offered to low-income families by use of available rent subsidies.

This program allows the RHA to pay the difference between the property owner's rent and the maximum rent a low-income family can afford. Anyone interested in leasing property to the authority should contact the Rochester Housing Authority, 57 City Hall, 30 Broad St. W., or phone 546-2060.

The authority will consider any housing type including single-family houses, duplex units, or an apartment in a multi-family structure. The units may be older standard housing, rehabilitated units or new construction.

Lease agreements can be written for a period of 1 year to 5 years with a renewal option. The lease agreement with the authority guarantees the monthly rental to the owner for the period of the lease and the authority assumes responsibility for the Tenant occupant.

Funds are immediately available for this purpose under the following conditions:

1. The property must be located within the City of Rochester.
2. The dwelling structure must meet minimum standards of space and facilities; be in compliance with building codes and ordinances; and be in a standard residential environment.
3. The monthly rental required by the owner must be within the limits of fair market rental value.

AUBURN — Public and parochial reaction to the proposed centralization of Auburn's Catholic schools and the urgent upgrading of their curriculum and facilities has been patient and moderate, several pastors reported here this week.

Unification of the eight parish schools and one high school into a single system was suggested by the firm of Englehardt, Englehardt and Leggett, professional educational consultants, in a public report on April 5. The Cayuga County Catholic School Board had hired the survey firm to report on present facilities, financing programs and handicaps of the nine schools serving 3,300 students.

Key recommendations in the 12-point report called for establishment of a non-parish system of schools, the closing of three schools, school placement of children according to age and not locality, greater selectivity of pupils, stronger religious education for public schoolers and broader financial support from the whole community.

The Auburn Catholic School Board, made up of three pastors, four Sisters and 10 laity, anticipating the Englehardt report, had set plans for a questionnaire to be sent to every Catholic in Auburn in early May. The mailing would ask: "Do you want quality Catholic education for Auburn's children?" and "Will you pay for it?"

Monsignor James D. Cuffney, president of the board stated this week that the "feasibility of the survey" is still under discussion in the light of the specifics of the Englehardt report.

Another committee of the board is preparing a job description of qualifications desired in the future superintendent of the inter-parish system and scouting availability of candidates, he announced.

"No schools and no individual grades will be closed for some time in our Auburn parishes," Msgr. Cuffney said, reflecting general pastoral plans.

Father Felix Brackowski, pastor of St. Hyacinth's, one of three schools the report says should be eliminated, told his parishioners to "stay cool."

He stressed that the proposal is still under consideration and that "the people of the community will decide."

Father Edward A. Shamon, pastor of St. Augustus, another of the schools that would be closed, if the recommendations of the \$18,000 study were followed, says the proposal, "has no official status."

Father Shamon called attention to a directive from Bishop Fulton J. Sheen that no school in the diocese would be closed or any grades eliminated without the permission of the Bishop himself.

SS. Peter and Paul school also would close under the proposal.

The Auburn Citizen-Advertiser reported that Holmes D. Sullivan, assistant superintendent of instruction in the Auburn public school system, feared the possibility of "selectivity" of pupils in the proposed "Catholic school system."

Implementation of this proposal, intended to allow improved program development in the Catholic schools, would send 1,400 Catholic students in grades 18 and 250 high school students into the public schools, he estimated.

Dr. George Mayberry, superintendent of schools, said that the public schools' ability to absorb such an influx right now would depend primarily on which sections of the city were touched by Catholic school-closings or reductions.

He hoped that the proposal would not be put into action until 1970 when a new comprehensive city high school will be completed and grammar school grades could be relocated.

Librarians Meet At Nazareth

The Western New York Catholic Librarians Conference will be at Nazareth College, April 27, at 2 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Miss Helen M. Cashman, director of Library Services, Genesee Valley, N.Y.

Following the general meeting there will be section meetings for librarians serving in secondary and elementary schools, colleges, parishes, hospitals, and public libraries.

PAT ANSWERS

Do you have questions about parish-life, customs and traditions which bug you? The famous HELP! column doesn't know everything. Try PAT ANSWERS! ... But don't ask PAT about faith or morals. Simply write in your concerns and hang-ups about living in the family of God. ... Address: PAT ANSWERS, 35 Scio Street, Rochester 14604. PAT'S answers will not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor, —or of the Diocese.

Q. Father Tormey's editorial mentioned the "offertory procession" in parishes which take their ceremonies "progressively". Please comment on the value of installing such a procession at Sunday Mass in our parish. —Not-a-Liturgist-Nut, Rochester

A. Read the article on "The Offertory Procession" on today's "Commentary Page" and show it to your Pastor.

Q. With the old trusty coal furnaces I had no problem disposing of last year's blessed palm. But, please, what do we do now? —Mrs. E. B. M., Rochester

A. It is still a reverent thing to burn up blessed articles you intend to discard. Stuff the palm into an old wastebasket or coffee can and light it (outdoors, of course).

Q. The three Catholic churches in Corning regularly schedule their weekday Masses between 7 and 8 in the morning, outside of Lent. I cannot make the early morning Masses so I can never get to daily Mass unless I drive 20 miles to Elmira. Why couldn't there be an afternoon Mass in one of these area churches all year round, or on a rotating schedule of a month at a time, to accommodate parishioners? —Mrs. H. J. T., Corning

A. Our best answer: let the Pastors in that area see this public statement. Seems reasonable.

Q. My parents had a mixed-marriage ceremony and my mother has often said she regretted that she missed the solemnity of a Nuptial Mass. I am engaged to a fine Lutheran man. May we have a Nuptial Mass? —M. K. T., Elmira

A. Yes, general church law now permits the full solemnities of a Nuptial Mass and the wedding ceremony in the sanctuary for the mixed marriage. Your young man's Lutheran pastor also may be invited to be in the sanctuary and to bless you or speak to the congregation after the Catholic ritual is finished. So far, Protestants present may not receive the Holy Eucharist—but you and your family and friends may if you wish.

Q. I was surprised recently to see a bride and groom receive both the consecrated wine and the Host at their wedding Mass. How come? —B. L. U., Rochester

A. The Nuptial Mass is one of the special occasions at which Holy Communion may be received under both forms. It is not obligatory, but a pretty common practice. Incidentally the same privilege goes to couples having a Mass for renewal of vows at their 25th and 50th anniversaries.

Ordination of Deacons Set May 3

The ordination of deacons from St. Bernard's Seminary will take place at a parish church this year in order to make the ceremony more available to the general public.

St. Augustine's Church in Rochester will be the scene of the ordination on Friday, May 3 at 8 p.m. It was announced this week by Father Joseph P. Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will have his baptism as an ordaining prelate on this occasion when 23 subdeacons will advance another step closer to the priesthood.

Seven Rochester Diocese seminarians are among the group slated for the diaconate; another 14 men come from the dioceses of Syracuse (5), Worcester, Mass. (4), Providence, R.I. (2), Hartford, Conn. (1), Norwich, Conn. (1) and St. Augustine's, Fla. (1). One Capuchin seminarian and one Precious Blood seminarian fill out the diaconal group.

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