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## Parish School Board ... How It Works

## By ELLEN H. HERZOG

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There is an old Chinese saying that a long journey begins with but a single step.

Our "long journey" to lay participation in all operations of our church and school began with the single step: the formation of the St. Ambrose School Board, in May 1965. consisting of 14 lay members, the principal of the school, and Msgr. Arthur Ratigan.

Our first meeting was a bit frightening why were we selected to be on this strange board, - what did we know about running a school, -how did one go about forming a School Board? The sense of responsibility was overwhelming.

Since we were one of the first School Boards in the Diocese, we had few guidelines, so our first order of business was to establish a constitution and bylaws.

When these were written. we formed committees. These committees were directly concerned with the operations of the school-Capital Expenditures, Finance, Registration, Curriculum, Personnel and Student Welfare, Each memhow a school is run.

In order to show the problems in setting up a parish chool board and keeping it effective, the following article is reprinted from "Dialogue," the magazine of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. It was written by Ellen H. Herzog, an original member of the St. Ambrose Parish School Board, on e of the first in the diocese.



School

also a member of the Parish Finance Committee on the Board. The board meets once a month in full school, etc. session-and committees meet The between Board meetings All of the School Board meetings

are open and once a year the Board reports its year's work the board.

The curriculum committee has been involved in setting up a Career Day for the eighth graders, departmentalization of the upper grades, and helping the nuns set up a full time guidance program

> The finance committee is directed to prepare the budget for the school.

mittee is concerned with the physical education program which the board set up in conjunction with the CYO. It also coordinated the lunch

program for the school, and instituted a Book Rental program which is a great success. In 1967 the board added a

public relations committee which tries to keep the Parish informed of its activities and it publishes a newspaper -"School Talk"-which is a year.

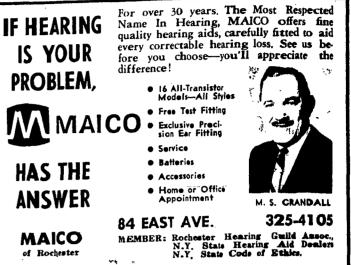
Board means to get involved! You have to gear your thinking to a year or two or even ten ahead. It is an awesome responsibility to suddenly find yourself voting to spend thousands of dollars on a project and to realize that not only will you be paying your share of it but that you must answer

rience.

School out on miles and miles of steps. We feel that we are medium size steps now. And the journey has grown easier



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Monsignor Thom Costello, superintenden schools for the Dioces Syracuse, is chairman o N.Y. State Council of C lic School Superintend Recently as spokesman the Bishops of the state representative of the 4 teachers and 800,000 pur Catholic elementary and ondary schools of the he addressed the State I of Regents.

A major portion of statement asking for th gents Board assistance the problems facing Cat children is reprinted readers may know the n of the Church's stance b the N.Y. State educatio thorities:

The Catholic school tems of this state share the Board of Regents a jor concern for the s children who live in great urban areas. Or every five school childr our State attends a Ca School.

Of every 100 Cath school students, 57 a schools in one of the Bi Cities, while only 37% ( statewide public schoo rollments are educated h Big Six.





cerned with the building, ven-

tilation, the fire escape win-

dows, etc.; the teachers were

corncerned with the quality of

education, teacher require-

ments, the curriculum; and

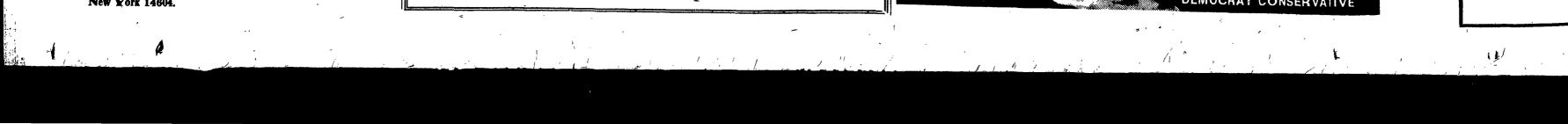
the mothers of children in

school were concerned with

ble stage for the auditorium, studying the feasibility and cost of air conditioning the personnel committee worked out a pay structure for the lay teachers and it is for the elementary school. the cornmunication link be-

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Duffy, 50 Cinestnut Street Rochester,

N.Y. 10001 or directly to your local Diocesan Director.



Cayuga County Democratic Committee