

Values of a Christian Education Are Constant

'Continuity Demands Change but Change Demands Continuity'

By MONSIGNOR WILLIAM M. ROCHE, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools

In the 100 year history of the Diocese of Rochester, Catholic schools have often been "at the crossroads." In 1968, as we contemplate the changes taking place within the structures of the Catholic Church, and more particularly in the forms that Catholic education might take in the years ahead, we cannot help but be impressed by the astute observations made by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, first Bishop of Rochester. Furthermore, it cannot escape our attention that many of our supposedly "new ideas" are, in reality, a latter-day expression of the hopes and desires of our predecessors.

Catholic education has always been a chief concern of the bishops, priests, teaching religious, and the people of the Diocese of Rochester. It was true 100 years ago and it is true today: times and the tempo of society may have changed, but the de-

mand for the values obtained only through a thoroughly Christian education remains constant.

We are struck by the deep truth contained in the simple phrase, "continuity demands change; but change demands continuity."

And so we look at Catholic education in the Diocese of Rochester on its 100th Anniversary from the perspective of a century of traditions and achievement - often pioneering achievement and spectacular innovation in the face of tremendous odds.

We are struck, first of all, by the fact that Catholic schools in Rochester far antedate the foundation of the diocese, but we are even more intrigued to discover that the first principals of both St. Joseph's and St. Peter's Schools, founded in the early nineteenth century, were both

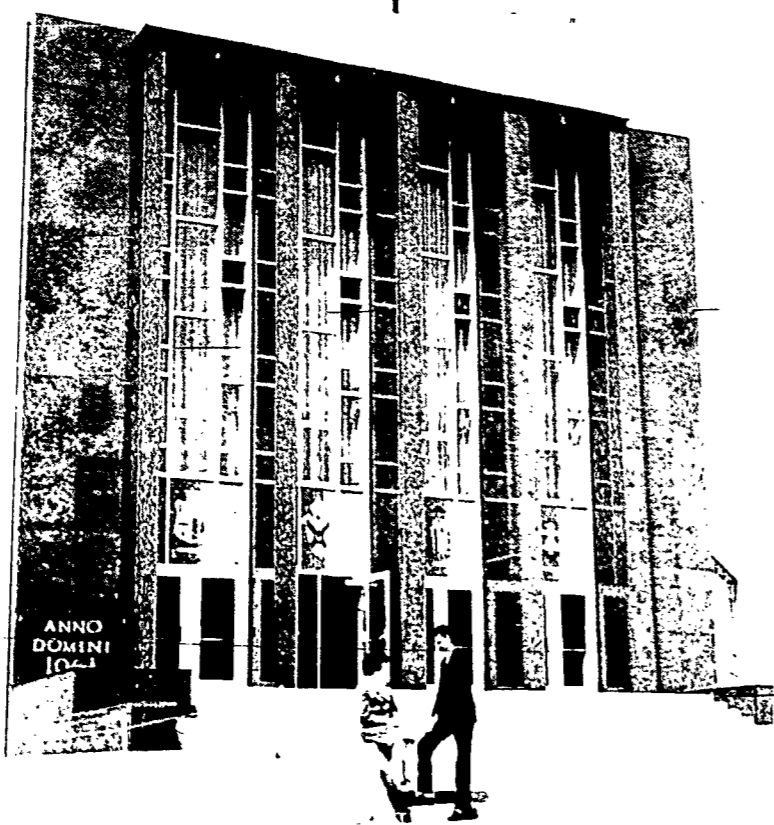
laymen. Were these pioneering principals the first of the emerging laymen?

In reviewing the history of the diocese we are struck by the high priority placed upon Catholic education, first by the German immigrants who were the first to open Catholic schools, and who are pointed out by Father Robert McNamara, Diocesan Historian, as "indisputable founders of the present Rochester Diocesan School System."

"Not until the days of Bishop McQuaid," says Father McNamara, "did the non-German congregations begin to overtake the German congregations in this respect."

"Nor did the aspirations of these pioneers rest with the establishment of elementary schools. In 1848 the first high school was established in Rochester under the title 'College of the Sacred Heart.'"

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