

The School Front

Brooklyn Jumps Tuition

Brooklyn—(RNS)—The Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn, the largest completely urban see in the United States, has announced it will raise tuition at its high schools by 100 per cent during the 1970-71 school year.

Bishop Francis J. Mugavero said that increasing the annual tuition from \$300 to \$600 was "one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as bishop of this diocese."

The sharp boost in fees was deemed necessary to counteract a growing financial crisis in the Brooklyn diocese schools, the third-largest private educational system in the U.S., with approximately 175,000 children enrolled.

There are 16,000 students enrolled in the nine diocesan high schools.

During the 1968-69 school year the Brooklyn diocese had an overall deficit in the high schools of \$2.5 million. This year's loss is expected to reach \$3.5 million.

Father Franklin Fitzpatrick,

diocesan superintendent of schools, noted that each year about \$1 million is collected through Brooklyn parishes for the high schools. "The deficit between the tuition charged and the actual cost of educating children has been met by all the people of the diocese who each year contribute almost a million dollars for that purpose. But a million dollars a year is no longer enough."

The contributions "from all in the diocese," according to Father Fitzpatrick, will now be placed in a Diocesan Student Aid Fund which will be used to assist those parents who cannot afford full tuition.

Stressing that the financial squeeze was the primary factor influencing the diocese to charge a tuition that will meet the actual cost of education, Father Fitzpatrick reminded the parents that even with the increase, the cost of educating a child in diocesan schools represents only half of what it takes to educate a New York City public high school student.

Public, Parochial Schools Join Forces in Philly

Philadelphia—(RNS)—First it was the Philadelphia Catholic schools in serious financial difficulty. Now the city's public school system is experiencing a serious money crisis.

The common problem has prompted an unprecedented alliance of public and parochial schools. That "alliance" provides mutual support of efforts to secure additional public funds—whether from city, state or federal sources—to provide adequate school systems.

Philadelphia's Board of Public Education took an unusual step by endorsing the principle of public aid to subsidize the teaching of "secular subjects" in Catholic schools.

The statement recognized that the two systems (250,000 in public schools; 150,000 in

Catholic schools) are economically and socially interdependent. It said, in part, "Each is essential to the welfare of the city and its youth. If one suffers, the other suffers."

The financial goals of the Catholic schools are by no means met, but they are somewhat better off this year. Under new state legislation, Catholic schools here will receive about \$2.5 million from race track receipts for 1969-70, and as more tracks go into operation—also under new legislation—it is hoped this figure will jump to \$10 million in subsequent years.

Before the Nov. 4 general election, John Cardinal Krol endorsed a substitute \$65 million bond issue, and it was carried, saving the public school system from a serious predicament.

Missouri Parents Seek Change in State Law

St. Louis—(NC)—Nine Missouri couples and their 67 children filed a petition in federal district court here seeking, in effect, to force the State of Missouri to provide financial assistance to nonpublic schools.

The plaintiffs asked that a three-judge panel be convened to declare certain Missouri laws illegal and to order the state board of education to adopt a plan for distributing state aid to education funds on an equitable basis.

They declared that Missouri's refusal to aid nonpublic schools "places a penalty on the free exercise of religion, contrary to constitutional provisions of the state and of the United States."

Missouri state courts have held it is unconstitutional to use state funds to aid nonpublic schools. The state legislature has rejected bills that would have allowed state funds to aid nonpublic school youngsters through bus transportation, special education classes, tuition, textbook grants or tax credits.

The plaintiffs noted they are required to pay taxes, part of which are used for public schools, and that "parents must, of necessity, pay substantial tuition, book rental fees, and other charges to nonpublic schools without the benefit of relief from the double charges resulting therefrom."

The plaintiffs asked that the state adopt a plan to distribute funds, "which plan shall not discriminate against any person regardless of race, creed or color, and which shall not restrict the free exercise of religion."

The suit represented a new point of attack on Missouri's position on school aid. The state is considered to have one of the strictest constitutions in the country in regard to the provision of virtually any type of assistance to nonpublic school students.

Citizens for Educational Freedom, an interfaith grass roots organization, has been in the forefront of the fight to obtain state aid for nonpublic schools here, but is not a party to the present suit.

Two of the plaintiffs were said to have been active in the state CEF.



Part of the biblical coin collection presented at Gatlinburg's Christus Gardens is examined by Ronald S. Ligon, left, director of the Gardens, Mrs. Gertrude Huckleberry, operations director, and Charles Hammontree, who spent 20 years accumulating the collection.

Biblical Coins Given to Memorial

Gatlinburg, Tenn.—What is considered the finest collection of biblical coins in the United States and one of the three finest in the world has been presented to Gatlinburg's Christus Gardens.

Ronald S. Ligon, director of the Gardens, said the coins were presented by Charles Hammontree of Maryville, Tenn., a nationally known numismatist who spent more than 20 years accumulating the collection.

Hammontree said the 168 coins in the collection range in date from the seventh century B.C. to 1922 A.D. and include one of the silver shekels of Tyre, the coins which made up the "30 pieces of silver" paid Judas for the betrayal of Jesus.

Also included in the collection are the "widow's mite" mentioned in the Bible and the so-called "tribute penny." The earliest coin with a likeness of Christ was struck about 500

A.D., and a gold coin, the first with a detailed portrait of Christ's face, was issued about 945 A.D.

Ligon and Hammontree explained that Christus Gardens is an extremely appropriate place for the coins to be on public display, since the Gardens are considered one of the world's unique memorials to Christ, with three-dimensional scenes depicting Christ's life.

Art Linkletter's Plea: Make Drugs 'Out Thing'

By DAVID GIBSON
(NC News Service)

Denver—Art Linkletter asked 4,000 teenage delegates to the National CYO convention here to make drugs the "out" thing.

The television personality, whose daughter recently was killed in a fall while apparently under the influence of LSD, is campaigning throughout the country against "turning on" with drugs.

There are always certain things that are "in" with young people, and certain things that are "out," said Linkletter. "Other teenagers won't want to touch marijuana or physically addictive drugs if it is made the 'out' thing to do, he added.

Referring to Timothy Leary as a "missionary for marijuana," Linkletter said he was "attempting to counter this evil man's crusade by asking the young people of America to turn on with life."

Leary is the former Harvard professor who asked people to "turn on, tune in and drop out." Leary actively encourages use of marijuana, but he is leaning toward the belief LSD is dangerous, according to Linkletter.

Linkletter told the CYOers that only a few nights earlier Leary had spoken at the University of Kentucky and had received a standing ovation from a standing-room only crowd.

"I think he is one of the most evil figures of our gen-

eration; one of the most disillusioned, one of the most terrible figures to ever appear before the youth of America," Linkletter said—and then, Linkletter received a standing ovation from his youthful audience.

The role of parents is more important than the role of legislation and law enforcement in beating the problem of drugs, he said. Parents are going to have to know more about drugs. A child is almost certainly going to be exposed to the possibility of using drugs, he added.

In the event parents find a child experimenting with marijuana, Linkletter said, they should not overreact. The child should be talked to calmly about what the drug is.

"Then the kid has got to make up his own mind which way he wants to go. You can't make a kid live your life. He's got to live his life," he said.

Moreover, parents should

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Hartford to Train Permanent Deacons

Hartford, Conn.—(NC)—The Hartford archdiocese has received approval for its plan to train and ordain laymen to the permanent diaconate.

The training program probably will begin next spring.

Approval of the program came from the U.S. Catholic Bishops' Committee on the Permanent Diaconate.

Candidates may be either married or single and must be at least 33 years of age.

Archbishop Whealon said the Hartford program is the fifth in the country to be approved. The others are in Collegeville, Minn.; Orchard Lake, Mich.; Detroit, Mich.; and Washington, D.C.

The Hartford Archbishop, John E. Whealon said that although it is possible full-time deacons will be used eventually, the scope of the present program is limited to part-

time service by deacons who will hold regular jobs while performing diaconal service after their regular working hours and on weekends.

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Decline
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NC News Servi...
Detroit—The sharp... vocations across the... States and Canada fr... to 1968 appears to be... according to figures c... by the National Cor... of Diocesan Vocation... tors.
The figures, howev... not demonstrate if t... temporary plateau or... tom in the decline.
In contrast to th... drop in high school s... enrollment for Canada fr... Center for Applied F... in the Apostolate (... from 1964 to 1968, th... freshman classes will... 4% smaller than last...
The report shows... seminary high schoo... increases in fresherme... ment; 29 noted de... and six have the sam... ment. Total enrollm...

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