

# The School Front

## 20 Schools to Close

St. Paul, Minn. — (RNC)—Twenty to 30 schools in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis are likely to close or consolidate at the end of the current school year, according to the superintendent of schools.

In a letter to priests of the archdiocese, Father John R. Gilbert said the dilemma is a complicated one involving a declining number of teachers from religious orders and, in many cases, declining parish contributions coupled with increased costs.

"Having spoken with many of you about financial diffi-

culties, I know we are in general agreement that a further cutback in religious personnel will weaken your school perhaps beyond the breaking point," Father Gilbert wrote.

"We do not intend to recommend this route as a solution to our present crisis."

Instead, Father Gilbert recommended the closing or consolidation of 20 to 30 schools, a move that would mean a decrease of archdiocesan elementary and secondary enrollment, even larger than the 7,000 student decline which took place last fall.

# Milwaukee Priest Aids Draft-Age Men

By ETHEL GINTOFF

Milwaukee—(NC)—He does not advise a young man to avoid the draft. Nor does he convince him he should enter military service.

He is a counselor who, with the aid of selective service information, helps a man of draft age to come to his own decision regarding alternatives open to him.

This is the work of the Ecumenical Center for Draft Counseling located on the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee campus. Among the counselors is a Catholic priest, Father Reynard J. Kinkel, O.F.M. Cap.

Father Reynard was recently invited by the Division of World Justice and Peace, (U.S. Catholic Conference) to

share some of his draft counseling expertise in Washington. He was also asked to present suggestions for setting up and operating draft information centers.

The bishops' interest in draft counseling was expressed Oct. 15 when the Justice and Peace division issued a statement on conscientious objection, saying that a Catholic, concluding that a just war in the modern technological world is not possible, "could validly question and abstain from participation in war or the preparation for war."

At the UW-M counseling center, Father Reynard said the center's thrust is twofold: provide accurate information and then counsel. The center is dependent on donated funds from various denominations.

Its services are available to the community at large.

Father Reynard said a young man's classification can be determined by how much accurate information he has when he fills out its initial selective service questionnaire. "We try to point out the alternatives, the consequences of decisions regarding them, and then help him reach his own decision."

Families, too, are involved in a young man's decision regarding selective service. Father Reynard said the center is available to parents, wives and sweethearts who are concerned and seek information.

Father Reynard added much other counseling for the young is closely linked with the man's draft status: voca-

tional guidance, marital counseling.

"As a minister I want to provide a service to these fellows. I add, as a priest, a faith dimension when it is appropriate. The kids are happy, I think, when they come here, and see a priest—especially when theirs is a decision that involves their Christian ethic."

## Fresno Bishop Fights to Save OEO Legal Aid

Fresno, Calif.—(NC)—Bishop Hugh A. Donohoe of Fresno has urged Congress to retain the rural legal assistance programs under the jurisdiction of the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO).

Recently the Senate approved an amendment by Sen. George Murphy of California, which would give governors of the state a veto on such programs. Murphy's amendment had the backing of California Gov. Ronald Reagan, who has objected to the rural legal assistance lawyers' suing the state in behalf of migrant workers and other poor.

Bishop Donohoe sent telegrams Dec. 10 to California members of Congress representing the San Joaquin Valley area.

"The rights of the poor to pursue individual and collective legal recourse must be guaranteed," he said.

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## Aid to Private Education A Must, Rabbi Declares

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—Non-support of private schools would mean the "death knell" for the U.S. pluralistic educational system, a rabbi told a House subcommittee here.

"It is not the creed of the child which should be the focus of our concern but rather the need of the child," declared Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, director of school organization and professional services for the National Society for Hebrew Day Schools (Torah Umesorah).

Rabbi Goldenberg told the general subcommittee on education of the House Committee on Education and Labor that a "rethinking of this problem of federal aid to education is long overdue."

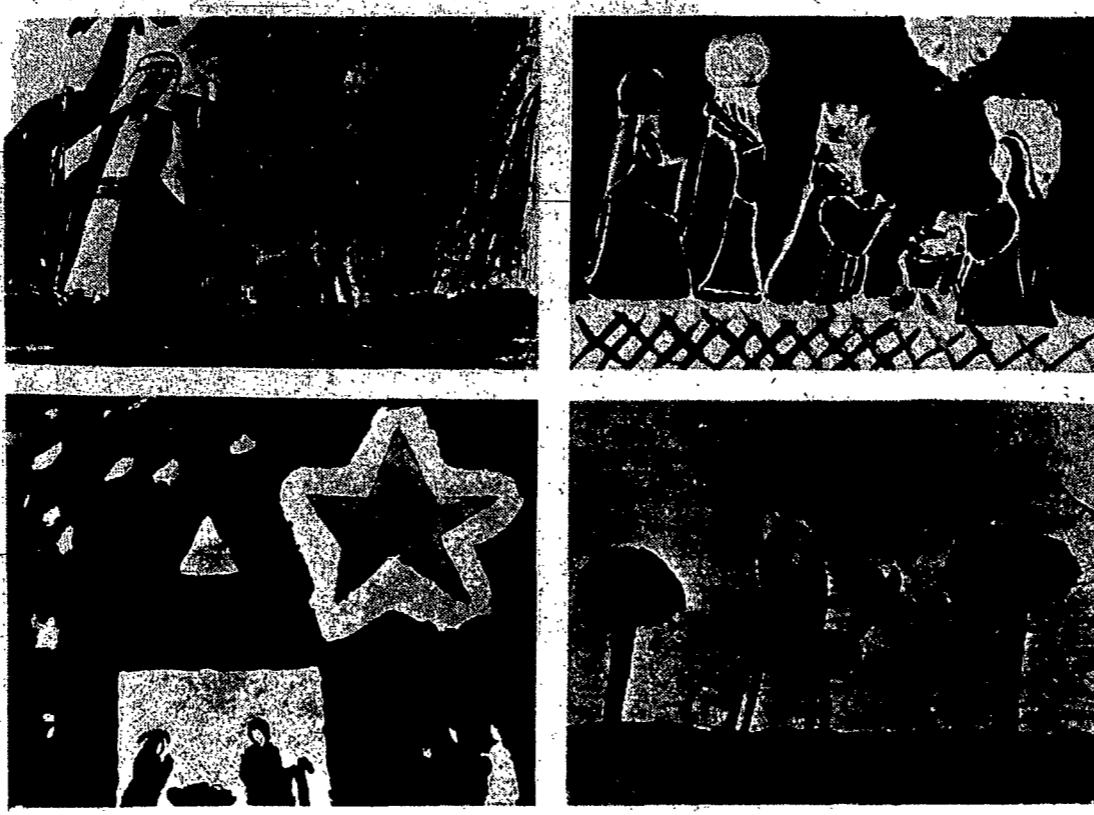
Noting that his society has been a staunch supporter of the principle of church-state separation, the rabbi said that congressional concerns for the 1970's and beyond "should allow millions of citizens-in-the-making to share in a reasonable manner in the educational efforts of our great country."

His argument that the Hebrew day schools and other private institutions should be eligible for state and federal grants was presented in this fashion:

"Under the supervision of the state we serve the public welfare by providing an educated citizenry. Standards are set. Credits are transferred. Our nation in its defense forces, in its scientific quests, in its strivings for moral perfection, in its educational goals of good and welfare, accepts correctly the non-public schools and their students as part of the national establishment and the state—but we are aliens, illegals, when it comes to financial support."

The Torah Umesorah official also stressed that pluralism in education was a basic facet of democracy. This pluralism, he pointed out "is the right to choose between educational alternatives without penalty."

"But if we are to have a pluralistic educational system," he added, "with all the good it implies, then such a system needs the financial encouragement of the state."



Christmas Story

Here are four of the original drawings from "A Child's Interpretation of the Christmas Story." The Old American Insurance Co. in Kansas City sponsored a special art contest for all schools in the Kansas City area. Students who entered were assigned one of 17 topics depicting "The Christmas Story." Winning entries were converted into a giant "slide" show and shown each evening during the Christmas season with special background music. The four-way panel shows, upper left, "The Trip of Bethlehem," lower left, "The Nativity," upper right, "The Adoration of the Magi," lower right, "The Flight into Egypt." (Religious News Service)

## Efficiency Gets Credit For Success in Detroit

Detroit—(RNS)—"Intense efficiency" in Detroit's Catholic school operation was credited with keeping education costs at less than half that of public schools while keeping educational quality at a high level.

The annual cost per pupil in the archdiocesan schools was computed at \$432, as compared to \$900 per pupil per year in public schools. This was disclosed in an annual report by the archdiocese's Department of Education.

The report said, "Yet Catholic schools met all standards set for Michigan schools."

The report also pointed out that while public schools tended to be a grade below the national average in accomplishment in grades tested, the Detroit Catholic schools were found, in a recent survey, to be six months to a year ahead of the national average, except in the inner city, which still reached the national average.

Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton of Detroit said

that "only intense efficiency had permitted Catholic schools to continue in operation amid a school-cost explosion that had endangered both public and non-public education."

The report also showed that it takes half the average parish's income to operate schools in the archdiocese.

While instructional expenses totaled about \$262 million out of a budget of approximately \$455 million, if religious teachers had been compensated the total would have been \$66.9 million, the report said.

## Toledo Raises Pastors' Pay

Toledo, Ohio—(NC)—Monthly salaries of pastors in the Toledo diocese will increase to \$500 and of associate pastors to \$250, effective Jan. 1. The priests will receive a monthly allowance of \$100 for use and maintenance of their automobiles.

Other benefits are hospitalization insurance, retirement fund payments, annual retreat and seminar expenses. Salaries of priests in special assignments will be adjusted similarly.

Priests' income derived directly from baptisms, marriages, etc. will be placed in the parish treasury.

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## Abortion Clinic Planned for D.C.

New York—(NC)—The National Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws announced here it would open an abortion clinic in Washington, D.C., for women from all over the country, if the District of Columbia Health Department and the hospitals of Washington do not do so within "a month or so."

A U.S. District Court judge in Washington on Nov. 10 held the anti-abortion laws of the nation's capital are unconstitutional because of vagueness. He ruled licensed physicians may perform abortions. His ruling is not binding on other federal judges here. None of the hospitals in the capital have changed rules of procedure covering abortions.

Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington has issued a statement asserting that "abortion is murder" and denouncing a proposed change in the capital's laws to abortion-on-request.

## Prayers Continue In Public Schools

Netcong, N.J.—(NC)—The practice of daily prayers at voluntary meetings in the Netcong Public High School will continue at least until Jan. 6.

State officials sought an injunction to restrain the practice, which involves reading from the Congressional Record prayers offered by chaplains in the U.S. Senate and House.

Judge Joseph Stampler turned down the request for an immediate injunction and ordered school administrators and the Netcong Board of Education to show cause on Jan. 6 why the readings should not be stopped.