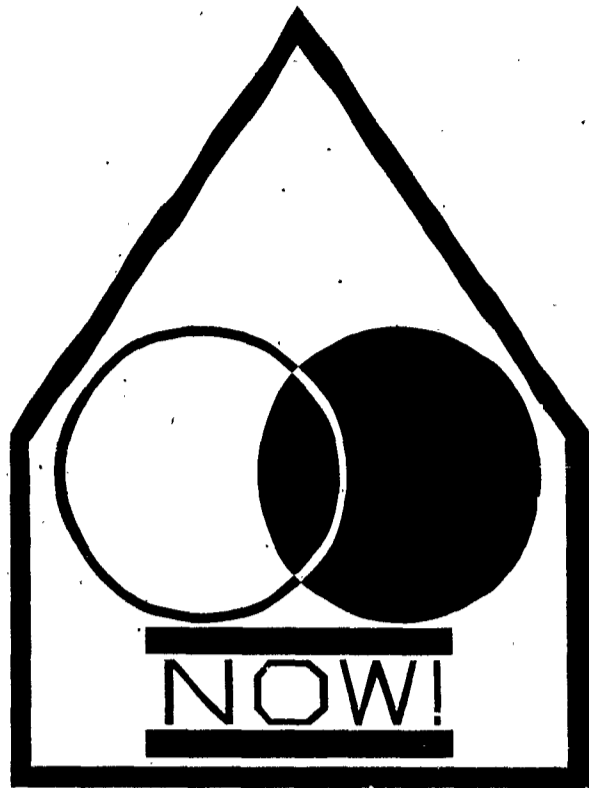


COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Open Housing In the County



By JOHN DASH

The law says (in effect) that no applicant for a house, an apartment or a room can have a door slammed in his face because of his color, creed or national origin. This is the "open housing" law.

Yet, throughout the Rochester Metropolitan area, concerned citizens feel it necessary to "push" open housing. Besides being law, open housing is also an issue.

During the recent school crisis over the Quality Integrated Education plan proposed for the City School District, James Sims, president of the Rochester Neighborhood Schools Association Council (RNSAC), stated that his organization is for open housing and against involuntary busing.

Father John Reif, president of the Fairport-Perinton Clergy and Lay Council, predicted that open housing would "loom as one of the biggest issues" to come before the council.

Mrs. George Smith, a parishioner of Mother of Sorrows Church, and secretary of an ecumenical, newly formed, Human Relations Committee also

sees open housing as a problem to be dealt with.

Stanley Marcus, chairman of the open housing committee of the Coalition of Concerned Citizens, has called for a meeting this week of social agencies to map a campaign for open housing.

The open housing "signature" which appears at the top of this article, is being distributed throughout the Rochester area by Roy Fries, a civic maverick and self-styled "lone crusader" for open housing. According to Fries, more than 25,000 of these symbols are being distributed through various organizations and churches in an educational promotion.

Among organizations engaged are the Rochester Teachers Association, the Teen League of Rochester, St. Charles Borromeo, Holy Name, Our Mother of Sorrows, Dewey Presbyterian and First Presbyterian churches; the Urban League of Rochester, the Urban Coalition, and the Suburban Coalition of Concerned Citizens.

Fries feels that a campaign using the symbols in Webster was so successful that it led to the Town Board's passage of an open housing resolution.

Robert Fien, chairman of the housing committee of the Pittsford-Perinton Human Relations council, reported that a similar campaign in the Pittsford area was less successful. He noted that, while churches in the area were sent a total of 1,000 symbols and urged to call their parishioners' attention to the problem, he saw, with few exceptions, little response.

"I see two things as our major problems in open housing," Fien said. "First, we have done a poor job of communicating the real vital need for open housing. There is no real sense of the problem. Second, I feel there is a security 'hang-up.' People think their property value will go down as soon as there are blacks living next to them. They depend on the damned image of where they live."

Next week, the *Courier-Journal* will report on Coalition for Concerned Citizens and a joint effort on the part of several Rochester agencies to solve this problem.

In future editions the newspaper will report on housing conditions in other areas of the diocese.

Confirmation of Adults Scheduled for May 17

Adult confirmations are scheduled in the Rochester area on Sunday, May 17, and in other diocesan areas on Sunday, Sept. 27. Bishop Hogan announced this week.

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by three Rochester area churches on May 17 at the same hour, 3 p.m. Parishes involved at each church include:

Sacred Heart Cathedral — Monroe County residents living on the west side of the Genesee River plus those living in Brockport, Chili, Churchville, Hilton, Scottsville and Spencerport.

St. Ambrose Church—Monroe County residents living on the

east side of the Genesee River plus those living in East Rochester, Fairport, Macedon, Marion, Ontario, Palmyra, Penfield, Webster and West Webster.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church—Residents on the south side of the city plus those living in Henrietta, Honeoye Falls, Mendon, Perinton, Pittsford, Rush and the Livingston County communities of Avon, Caledonia, Geneseo, Leicester, Lima, Livonia, Livonia Center, Mt. Morris and Nunda. Residents in the Ontario County community of Victor also are included in this grouping.

On Sept. 27 the Sacrament will be administered in Auburn, Geneva and Elmira Heights.



Questionnaires in Quantity

Opening the mail is a real chore these days at the Catholic School Office in Columbus Civic Center as thousands of questionnaires on the diocesan school system continue to arrive. Sister Patricia Donovan, RSM., in charge of the survey, is assisted by Mrs. Kay Jeffry, school office secretary. College juniors and seniors will get questionnaires this week.

Sister Mary Francesca Dies

Sister Francesca education pioneer. See Page 29.

Bishop James E. Kearney spoke the final grateful tribute of the diocese for Sister Mary Francesca Connor, founder and 29-year principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School, at her funeral services yesterday morning in the Mercy Motherhouse Chapel.

Sister Francesca, 82, died Saturday morning.

Retired for 13 years, she had been in failing health for some time, but remained active in the motherhouse as community librarian, director of the Apostolate of Mercy, and member of the general council of the order.

Two nephews, Father Gerard T. Connor, of St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, and David W. Connor, Chaplain at Cornell University, were principal celebrants of the funeral Mass.

Bishop Kearney preached the homily, praising the memory of Sister Francesca as a pioneer in Catholic secondary education and a vital force in the life-training of thousands of Catholic women of the diocese who knew her at Mercy High between 1928 and 1957.

Born in Rochester in 1888, and a member of the Mercy Order since 1911, she had taught in St. Mary's parish school, Corning, St. Patrick's, Owego, St. Cecilia's, Elmira,



SISTER FRANCESCA

and St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester.

Appointed to establish Mercy High School for girls on Blossom Road, Brighton, she was responsible for its construction and opened it in September, 1928, with a freshman class of 72. She was its principal until ill health forced her resignation in 1957.

Recognized as a pioneer in the fields of high school guidance programs, Parents' Associations, independent study and extra-curricular programs covering community issues, Sister

Francesca was also among the first Catholic educators in the East to seek accreditation with secular organizations.

Survivors include two sisters, Sister Mary de Pazzi, RSM, and Mrs. Helen C. Nordhausen, and a brother, Raymond W. Connor. Sister M. Bonaventure Hall, vice-principal of Mercy High, is a niece.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, representing Bishop Hogan traveling in Latin America, gave the final blessing at the grave in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Anthony Valente, Mercy chaplain, Father Richard Tormey, director of the diocesan Office of Communications and Father Daniel Brent, Superintendent of Schools, were concelebrants.

Cancer Unit Starts Crusade

More than 12,000 volunteers will participate in the house-to-house phase of American Cancer Society's 1970 Cancer Crusade in Monroe County, April 9 through April 12.

According to John F. Mills, 1970 General Crusade Chairman, this year's total campaign goal is \$199,500. Of this, \$112,500 must be raised house-to-house under the direction of

Wednesday, April 8, 1970

Notre Dame Purchases 1st School Bus

Elmira — Notre Dame High School has purchased its first school bus and plans to start soon to transport about 25 students from the Waverly, Sayre and Athens areas.

Students from these communities presently are using car pools to get to the school.

Principal Warren L. Tessier said the bus, a secondhand International, was bought for \$350 following a study by the transportation committee of the school's board of governors.

He said the school hopes possibly to be able to purchase another bus next autumn to serve students from the Corning area.

Official Notice

The Pastoral Office announced today that Father James Kelleher has resigned from the active ministry of the priesthood in this diocese.



Auburn Speaker

Ann Hawkins, a Skaneateles High School student who lived in Cochabamba, Bolivia, as a Rotary exchange student, will speak at 8:30 p.m. Monday, April 13, in St. Alphonsus School hall, Auburn. Women of St. John's Episcopal Church, Auburn, will be the guests of the St. Alphonsus Rosary Altar Society. Miss Hawkins is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Hawkins, formerly of Rochester.