



By ALEX McDONALD

The man responsible for all religion courses to be offered to 100,000 children of the diocese next Fall believes that a stronger "teaching-union" between the home and the parish will mark the next era of religious education.

Father Daniel F. Holland, just-named Diocesan Director of Religious Education and CCD, faces the slow decline of the parochial school structure with the conviction that a "non-school, religious education program must be built in every parish."

"Christian formation of our children, from kindergarten through high school, must be more than 'book-learning'", he says.

"We must work out a new system where training in religion is far more than just instruction given in a class-setting a few hours a week or less."

"The teaching role of parents, already started in preparation for First Communion will be enlarged."

Father Holland, tall and 30-ish, soft-spoken and articulate, has just succeeded Msgr. Albert H. Schnacky who for 23 years headed the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine apostolate of the diocese.

William Nolan Retires



WILLIAM NOLAN

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

Eighty-six-year-old William T. (Bill) Nolan, somewhat of "a legend in his own time," will retire June 30 after 53-years as general secretary of Rochester Catholic Charities.

Widely known in the community's Catholic, civic and political life, Bill is the father of Father William T. Nolan, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua. He lives with his widowed daughter, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Sullivan, at 151 Normandy Ave. in St. Augustine's parish.

The octogenarian, born July 9, 1884, was brought by horse and buggy from his Henrietta

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Courier-Journal

Msgr. Schnacky, moving to full-time duty as pastor of St. Catherine's in Mendon, founded the diocesan CCD in association with Father George C. Vogt, pastor of Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta. Beginning in "a broom-closet" in the Columbus Civic Center building, he brought the department to diocesan-wide efficiency serving 55,000 pupils in public schools, grades 1 to 12, this past year.

"Our problems are massive in numbers but rich in potential", Father Holland said this week in an interview in his psychedelic-decorated office on the 6th floor of the diocesan office.

Besides the continuing CCD programs which exist in every parish, he worries about "nearly 36,000 public-schoolers in our diocese who are not being reached at all by any religious education."

Admitting that part of the cause for non-attendance is parental neglect and youth-apaty about religion, the new director confirmed that "an improved curriculum to attract them must be found".

"To reach the uninstructed we've got to have an organized parish effort to find them, better parish staffs to teach them and must recognize that other means than 'book-education' must minister to them".

Another numerical burden Father Holland faces realistically is the possibility that by 1975 perhaps a half to three-quarters of the parochial schools may have to be closed.

The recent statistical prediction that 46 out of 60 Catholic elementary schools in Monroe County alone may be phased out in five years because of rising costs and diminishing registration, poses a special warning to prepare for a heavier load of instructing public schoolers in every parish.

"Our major target next Fall is to push the suggestion that a full-time, professional, religious educator be put to work in every parish," the new director said.

"This staff person to work with the pastor, parish council and faculty of the parochial school, if they have one, shall be the nourisher for religious education work in the parish from pre-school into adult levels."

Father Holland insists this parish staff employee should be "an educator, a theological-research source and an administrator". This coordinator would teach teachers as well as children, devise curricula for youngsters and adults, provide visual-aides, books and other assists, and work harmoniously with everyone who shares the religious instructing of all people in the parish.

Since April 1 all religious education for nearly 44,000 pupils in the 106 elementary and secondary schools of the diocese as well as for all public schoolers outside the Church schools has become the responsibility of Father Holland's

"Religious Education and CCD" section, a part of the new Diocesan Department of Education headed by Father Albert J. Shamon, episcopal Vicar for Education.

Father Shamon's department has five divisions covering all teaching and administrative efforts for religious and secular subjects offered to diocesans of every age.

These include General Education directed by Father Daniel Brent, Superintendent of Schools; Campus Ministry; Adult Education, and the former CCD apostolate now enlarged and labelled "Religious Education and CCD."

CCD was a service-agency for

many years, Father Holland explained, offering aids of all kinds to any parish with a catechetical program.

Then its work grew when it gave guidance to the CCD principals, arranged teacher-training programs across the diocese, promoted relations with parents of public-schoolers and greatly enlarged its audio-visual services.

In phase III, just beginning, the religious education work of Father Brent's office has been transferred to Father Holland's office. This section will now be responsible for all religious study programs given to all children throughout the diocese on the pre-school, handicapped,

elementary and secondary levels, of both public and parish and private schools.

He hopes to help the clergy and all lay teachers "to structure a broader learning environment". This means coming to an appreciation that "religious education is not just instruction, but includes celebration (parish liturgy), projects of learning that are self-experience centered and special opportunities to develop habits of religious practice".

Father Holland strongly favors "regionalism", in which a local area or parish sets its own policies and goals. But he will push for some "centralization", he promises.

'We must work out a new system where training in religion is far more than just instruction given in a class setting a few hours a week or less.'

Fr. Holland Previews His Job

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



The Last March

Final review of the Nazareth Hall cadet program was staged on Sunday, June 7, on the school grounds. The program, in existence since 1952, will be dropped in a decision to change the 86-year-old school's character in September by beginning enrollment of girls as well as boys.

Nazareth Hall Changes 'Image'

Changes in the character of Nazareth Hall—particularly in a decision to enroll girls as well as boys in September — were announced this week by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Dropped from the program will be the cadet training which in 1952 was added to the regular diocesan educational curriculum.

The Hall, currently a private day school for boys from kindergarten through eighth grade, will offer opportunities for continuous student progress by limiting all classes to a maximum of 21 pupils.

Sister Raymond Mary, SSJ, principal, said that specialized reading and departmental programs are being set up for September. There will be opportu-

nities, she added, for French classes and humanities courses in addition to the usual subjects.

In the first year of transition, she said, girls will be accepted into grades where there are enough vacancies to take in at least three girls on that grade level. Registration will conclude on July 30.

Nazareth Hall has been operated at 180 Raines Park by the Sisters of St. Joseph for 86 years. From the 1880s to the 1950s, in addition to the regular academic program, it offered residence accommodations to pupils from age 5 to 12.

In 1952 the cadet training program was introduced. Officers of the National Reserve Officers Training Corps at the

University of Rochester supervised it.

Currently there are 159 boys enrolled at the school, with a staff of seven Sisters and three lay teachers. Among graduates of the Hall during its eight decades have been some of the outstanding citizens of communities in the diocese.

At the final cadet review, Cap. C. R. Largess Jr., USN., professor of naval science at the U. of R., was reviewing officer and addressed the group. Among guests was Silvio De-Christopharo, retired Naval Commander who with Sister Marie Paulus, SSJ, set up the program. Maj. M. H. Long, USMC., and Gunnery Sgt. H. Johnson, USMC., who supervised the program this year, helped in the presentation of awards.

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