

# COURIER-JOURNAL

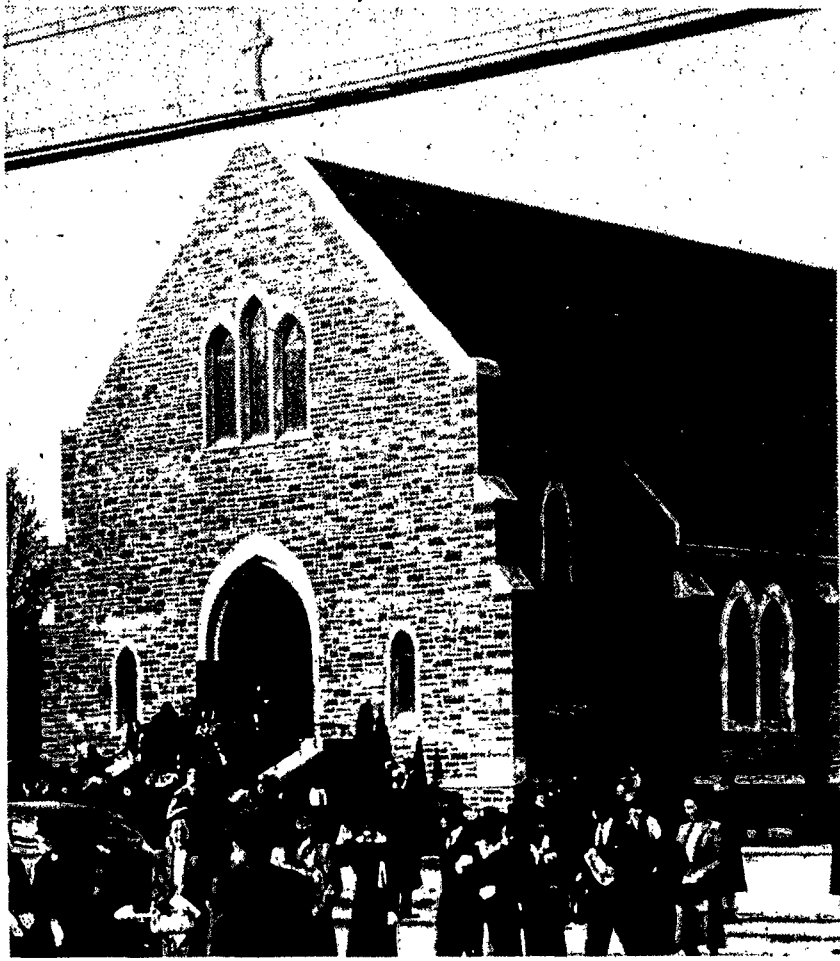
NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

2 Sections

## School, Parish Changes in Southern Tier?



**St. John Baptist**



**Our Lady of Lourdes**

Should a new multi-parish corporation be formed around St. John's and Lourdes churches?



**Ss. Peter and Paul**

Should this church be closed and sold?



**Notre Dame High School**

Shall all seventh and eighth graders go to Notre Dame with high schoolers?

This is the second in a series disclosing recommendations for diocesan action based on the School and Society Survey recently completed in the diocese.

The following is a review of the proposals applying to Chemung County as suggested by Sister Patricia Donovan, RSM., director of planning for the Diocesan Schools' Office, on the basis of the survey statistics.

By ALEX McDONALD

Elmira — Chemung County's particular problems with Catholic education suit it for immediate experimentation in parochial reorganization and consolidation of schools and churches. Here's the suggested picture:

Four "parish corporations" should be formed to service the entire county in place of the 11 present parishes.

Nine Catholic schools should be merged into five under centralized direction of a new agency to be called "The Chemung County Catholic School Corporation."

These are the major recommendations of the latest chapter of statistics and considerations from the School and Society Survey released here by the diocesan Department of Education.

Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, who released the report this week to Southern Tier pastors, announced that hearings on the recommendations would be held in September in Chemung County.

A task force for educational problems of the diocese, now being formed by Bishop Hogan, will review the report and area opinions before they are officially presented to the Bishop.

Sister Patricia Donovan, formerly principal of Notre Dame

High School here, who has spent seven months in the Schools' Office in Rochester, directing the survey and collating its statistics is the author of the report. Specific proposals, deliberately framed to be bold and imaginative, have been carefully substantiated by survey figures.

Basing recommendations on 1,463 responses from Elmira-area Catholics in the survey conducted by the diocese during March, the report states that the climate for reorganization is ripe in Chemung County.

It suggests: "That Chemung County be asked by the Bishop to serve as a testing ground for the diocese for pastoral innovation and apostolic initiatives in parochial reorganization, consolidation, liquidation of surplus properties, amalgamation of schools and corporate responsibilities of priests and sisters."

The statistical summary of the diocesan survey observed that "Chemung County does not need 11 Roman Catholic parishes" for about 30,000 parish-

(Continued on Page 2A)

On the Line

His 1st Request:  
Coffee

By Bob Considine



### Deacons Receive New Assignments

Story on Page 9A

#### ON THE INSIDE

Features	Columnists
Editorial . . . . . 14, 15A	Child . . . . . 10B
Know your Faith . . 1, 5B	Costa . . . . . 2B
Music Bag . . . . . 3B	Cuddy . . . . . 12A
People . . . . . 4A	Kennedy . . . . . 4B
Local . . . . . 9A	Morriss . . . . . 12A
Recipes . . . . . 10B	Shamon . . . . . 14A
World . . . . . 7A	Greeley . . . . . 12A

### Celibacy Has Its Advantages

London, Ont., Canada — (RNS)—In his parish bulletin, Father S. E. McGuire of St. John the Divine church congratulated graduates of the two parish schools and added this comment:

"Now school is out. The teachers give a sigh of relief; the students a shout of joy; the parents a groan of anticipation. Two months of family bliss.

"Thank God for celibacy."

Maryknoll Bishop James Edward Walsh's Chinese captors kept him so isolated the 79-year-old Marylander did not know until released that Americans had reached the moon, his Church had changed much of the liturgy of the Mass, and the Mets had won the World Series.

Father John Donovan, former Vicar General of the Maryknoll missionary order, was asked how his old friend had been able to weather such cruel confinement.

"He was with Christ in prison," Donovan said simply. "Being in the presence of Christ is enough. It doesn't mat-

ter, and it certainly didn't matter to the bishop, I'm sure, where he was at the time. He is a man of complete composure. He said upon being released that the Chinese had been polite to him during those 12 years. He identifies himself completely with the Chinese.

"You know, he could have left China in the middle 1950s when he and a number of other missionaries were under house arrest. We were in touch with him at the time and suggested that he leave. Knowing him so well, we never ordered him out. Neither would the Vatican, knowing that he would have

(Continued on Page 2A)