

'Education Task Force' Established by Bishop

Bishop Hogan this week announced the formation of an "Education Task Force" to face current and future problems in the diocesan school system.

The new body will have membership of four parish priests, three Sisters, six laymen from various areas of the diocese and the five-priest members of the Diocesan Department of Education.

Their immediate task, Bishop Hogan stated, would be to study the results of the "School and Society Survey" made across the diocese this Spring and to discuss the recommendations in the report of Sister Patricia Donovan, RSM, who collated the Survey.

"What has been presented so far in the Donovan Report," the Bishop said, "has been provocative and apparently substantiated by statistics. We will ask the new Task Force to serve as advisers during the next year recommending action in the light of the Survey. They will help us avoid delays in resolving priorities, and making decisions regarding continuance of schools, the use of Sisters' services and development of alternate religious education programs."

Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, said that after the Bishop and his advisors had reviewed, modified and approved the Task Force proposals, "it will be the function of the Task Force to make recommendations on individual parish situations."

Members of the Education Task Force are:

Rev. Joseph Gersitz, S.J., McQuaid Jesuit High School; Rev. David Gramkee, assistant at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca; Rev. James Marvin, pastor of St. Joseph Church, Wayland; Msgr. William M. Roche, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca; Rev. George C. Vogt, pastor of Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta.

Sister Stephanía, SS.N.D., Sister Ruth Agnes, SSJ, Sister Ann Miller, RSM, Mr. D. John Herbert, Auburn; Mr. William McDonald, Geneva; Dr. Thomas Curran, Elmira; Mr. Norman Driscoll, Mr. Robert Fien and Mr. William Asher, all of Rochester.

Also Fathers Albert Shamon, Daniel Brent, Leon Hart, CSB, Daniel Holland and Gerald Conner, all of the Department of Education.

Parish Changes Eyed in S. Tier

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lowers. However, the report said:

"But in deference to ethnic considerations and the tradition of national parishes a general reorganization should encompass all parishes of the county and not just those with smaller congregations or larger indebtedness."

Four new parish corporations should be formed to serve the present 11 parishes, under the new plan. Tentatively these should be given new names. Their nucleus would be St. Mary Our Mother for the northern part of the county, St. Mary's on the southside, St. John's in the east and Our Lady of Lourdes for the west.

The corporations might continue to operate another church apiece, rather like mission churches, if "there is a demonstrated need among the laity and available funds and personnel for operation."

After the new parish structures were formed, surplus rectory and convent properties should be sold, "and the monies realized should be used for the total education apostolate."

The Donovan Report proposed that the eight elementary parochial schools in the county and Notre Dame High School be restructured so that two schools would serve all children of the area from kindergarten to 3rd grade and two other schools would enroll all pupils in grades 4 to 6.

Notre Dame High School should be expanded to encompass all 7th and 8th graders in the county as well as the four high school years, according to the consolidation plan.

The report urged that St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's parish schools be used as "middle schools" for all 4th to 6th graders, and that Our Lady of Lourdes and part of St. Mary's (southside) be used for primary schools, kindergarten through 3rd grade.

The schools at St. Casimir's parish, St. Mary's and St. Mary Our Mother should be converted

to catechetical centers, the report suggested.

The schools of St. Cecilia's and SS. Peter and Paul's parishes, "due to age and location" should be closed and the property sold.

"The funding and organizational costs for operating the three CCD centers, the four elementary schools and the one high school should be the shared responsibility of all Catholics in the county through a new corporation called the Chemung County Catholic School Corporation."

This agency would have elected trustees and officers representing all the parishes, would establish tuition charges and initiate central purchasing.

A unique proposal to encourage the non-diocesan religious of the area to play a larger role in church life would bring the Mt. Saviour Benedictines and the Waverly Carmelite Fathers and the Dominican Sisters into the "fields of Christian formation" for the southern tier. "They should be adequately compensated for their service," the report added.

Supporting contentions about revamping parishes and schools were the following:

1—In the survey question about eliminating parish boundaries, area parishioners approved by slightly more than 50 per cent while the diocesan average was only 38 per cent.

2—The question about supporting consolidation of parochial schools got a 65 per cent approval here while only 46 per cent of the rest of the diocese

3—Some 71 per cent of the area Catholics disapproved closing the parish schools. They were strongly in favor of putting 7th and 8th graders into Notre Dame High School.

Countering these indications of the feasibility of restructuring, the survey report indicated that less than 30 per cent of the respondents said they wanted more church money spent on religious education of youth. A strong 81 per cent voted against the proposal of raising tuition charges to continue operation of parochial schools.



Pope Paul VI welcomes West German Chancellor Willy Brandt on a state visit to Vatican. With them is Archbishop Casaroli, Vatican aide. (RNS)

Pope Supports United Europe

Vatican City—(NC)—Efforts at creating a united Europe were supported by Pope Paul VI during a state audience with Chancellor Willy Brandt of West Germany.

The German chancellor was received at the Vatican July 13, with full state honors and spent almost an hour in private conversation with the Pope.

Afterwards the two read prepared statements, both in German, in the presence of their diplomatic aides.

The Pope took note of Brandt's mention of his efforts to reduce tensions between East and West.

"You have," the Pope told Brandt; "made mention of the tensions which still exist in Europe and with which the federal government is willing to concern itself to contribute in this manner to a practical coexistence among people."

A Cup of Coffee

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obeyed against his will and natural instincts.

"He said it all, I guess, when in turning down our suggestion he wrote, 'I didn't come to China to leave.'"

Bishop Walsh stayed on, was tried on the charge that he headed a vast spy ring, and sentenced to 20 years. His unexpected release with eight years left of his term surprised him but did not deprive him of his aplomb. Or feigned modesty. When he was appointed first Catholic bishop of Kongmoon in 1927, he said, "I'm sorry at this turn of affairs. It is almost a trial of faith to have a man like me made a bishop."

Coming across the bridge to the freedom of Hong Kong, he looked ahead at his enthusiastic greeters and said, "I can't understand why all this fuss over an old man like me."

Father Donovan was delighted when he read that the bishop's first request as a free man was for a cup of coffee. He had not had one for 12 years.

"Coffee has been his No. 1 weakness for as long as I've known him," Donovan laughed. "No. 2 would be golf, but No. 1 was much more noticeable. He just couldn't get started in the morning without a cup of coffee. Once during a visit to Manchuria in dead of winter, making his rounds as bishop, the Maryknoller who had offered Mass asked him to step outside and shake hands with the converts. It was bitter cold. 'I'm sorry,' he told his host, 'I can't shake a hand until I have my coffee.' The steaming coffee was produced and he held it in his left hand while shaking with

Recalling his own efforts for peace, Pope Paul said:

"If now we turn our attention to Europe, we willingly take the occasion of repeating anew the fact that the Holy See gives its full moral support to the problem of a

united Europe . . . This involves as necessary and urgent . . . [a problem] of union on the economic level and then, according to the possibilities—taking into account historical situations—of union within the political areas."

Is the Bishop Already a Cardinal?

Rome — Bishop James Edward Walsh, the 79-year-old American Bishop who was released last week from a Chinese Communist prison after having served 12 years of a 20-year term on spying charges, will probably be proclaimed a Cardinal as soon as he comes to Rome, highly placed Vatican sources said today.

Bishop Walsh, they speculated, was probably one of two men created Cardinals "in pectore" — literally, "in the breast" — by Pope Paul VI at his last consistory in April, 1969.

The "in pectore" formula is a rarely used device through which the Pope secretly designates as cardinals men whose public nomination is temporarily impossible, either because it might endanger their safety or because they occupy a church position that they would have to leave once they became cardinals.

If Bishop Walsh has been nominated in secret by Pope Paul — and one well-informed Cardinal in the Roman Curia said it was "98 per cent probable" — he would be a Cardinal without even knowing it. His public designation would occur without other formality, the Vatican experts said, when he visited the Pope, probably at the Pontiff's summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, next month.

his right." Father Donovan took a deep breath before speaking of the bishop's second vice.

"He took up golf during the period 1936-1946, when he served as superior general," he said. "He was persuaded that he needed golf to relax him after the rigors of administrative work — which, of course — he abhorred. So he took it up and became, I dare say, one of the worst golfers ever to step on a course."

"At the end of every round, he would make a solemn announcement that he was through with golf, forever. But the only time he really gave it up for any length of time during a playing season was the time he hit a member of his foursome in the head with a cockeyed drive. It didn't hurt the man, really, but it deeply wounded the bishop. This time when he swore off we tended to believe him."

"Three days later he was back on the course, still hacking around."

After reporting to Pope Paul VI, Bishop Walsh will visit his relatives in Cumberland, Md., his home town. They include his 80-year-old brother, a retired judge who was attorney general of Maryland, and five sisters, one of whom is a 74-year-old nun.

What's ahead for the bishop?

"I would think he'll do some writing," Father Donovan said. "He's a classic scholar, a master of Latin and Greek. But I wouldn't look for anything sensational in the way of now-it-can-be-told stories about his experience. Knowing him as we do, we purposely resisted all efforts to crusade in his behalf during his years in prison. It would have been easy, of course."

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