

Chemung Unit Studies Possible School Merger

Elmira — Possible consolidation of Chemung County's seven Catholic elementary schools is under study by a new committee headed by Auxiliary Bishop McCafferty.

The 14-person unit was formed at the recommendation of the Chemung County Catholic School Board to work with a larger diocesan Educational Task Force recently designated by Bishop Hogan. Comprising representatives of area priests, sisters and laity, the committee is intended to provide a local voice in planning the future of Catholic education in the county.

Bishop McCafferty explained that the coordinating committee would not deal with parishes or churches, but would concentrate on the possibilities for school consolidation. Bishop

Hogan has made it clear, he said, that he does not intend to "disturb the parish structure of Chemung County in the foreseeable future."

Committee members held their second meeting last night, Oct. 13.

Their task involves an analysis of area pre-school population figures; the collection of data on population mobility and availability of religious personnel; budget analysis of local parishes and publicizing the goals of Catholic education.

The Chemung County Catholic elementary schools have experienced a steady enrollment decline since 1964, when they hit a peak of 2,944 students. Current enrollment is 1,698 pupils, nearly 10 percent off last year's total of 1,871.

Weekend Workshop To Concentrate On 'Penance'

Corning — "Penance and the Christian Life" will be theme of a two day workshop Oct. 16-17 at the Watson Homestead, a conference center located a few miles north of Corning.

Msgr. William H. Shannon, who heads the religious studies department at Nazareth College, will be the featured speaker. Author of *The Lively Debate*, recently published by Sheed and Ward, he is also chairman of the diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Lectures will center on the formation of a Christian conscience and new insights on the sacrament of Penance.

The workshop is sponsored by the Southern Tier division of the Christian Formation Board.

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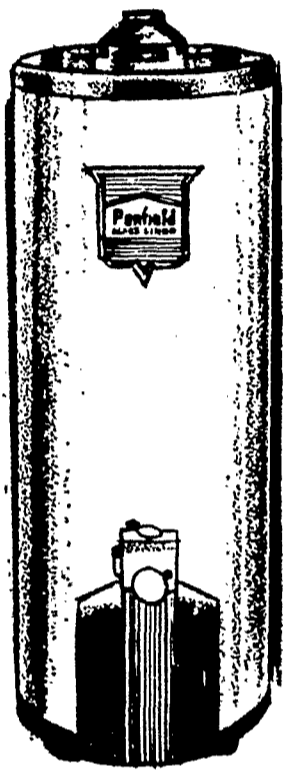
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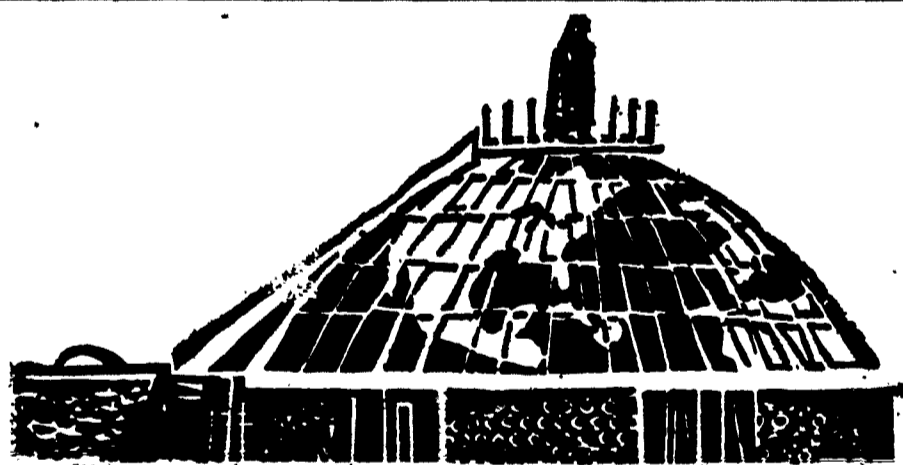
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