

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Regional School Plan Gains Board Approval

Elmira — A proposed "regional plan" which would bring some changes in Elmira area parochial schools received approval of the Chemung County Catholic School Board at a meeting here Dec. 10.

The plan, which would involve some consolidations and the establishment of a junior high school (7th and 8th grades) in the city, next will be considered by the diocesan Educational Task Force, which in turn will make recommendations to Bishop Hogan.

Under the plan, St. Patrick's School would be converted to a junior high; St. Anthony's four-grade school would be phased out and the building would be used as a religious education center for Catholics in public schools; kindergartens would be added to schools in west and north city quadrants, and four grades at St. Cecilia's would be closed and a kinder-

garten established there.

Major proposals of the plan were adopted by the school board. Two amendments were included — a recommendation that finances for the proposed consolidated school system be on a regional basis, and that introduction of kindergartens in the area's east and south regions be optional.

The proposals should effect a savings of approximately \$72,000 in the 1971-72 school year, according to Dr. Thomas R. Curran, chairman of the county's Catholic school board and a member of the diocesan task force.

Commenting on what he termed an apparent overcoming of strictly parochial interests, Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools who attended the board meeting as an observer, declared that "I have a feeling that I have witnessed history here tonight."



School Principals Discuss Education Problems

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey chats with group of more than 20 Sisters who attended a meeting of the Catholic Elementary School Principals Association Dec. 9 at St. Philip Neri School. From left are Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND., St. Philip's School; Sister Virginia Steinwachs, SSJ., Holy Rosary; Sister Sheila Lubber, SSJ., Sacred Heart; Sister Anne Marie Fehrenbach, SSJ., St. Monica's, and Sister Mary Ellen Kinsella, RSM., St. Andrew's.

Fisher, Nazareth to Participate In Joint College Operation

Nine Rochester area colleges, including St. John Fisher and Nazareth colleges, last week formed a corporation to undertake cooperation in purchasing, business, teaching and library operations.

The Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, CSB., president of Fisher, who was president of the informal group which has studied the project for the last several years, was named president pro tem at the corporation's inaugural meeting. He and other members of the executive committee will be seeking funds to finance an office and an executive secretary.

Member colleges include the University of Rochester, Colgate-Rochester Divinity School, Rochester Institute of Technology, Roberts Wesleyan College, Monroe Community College and the State University Colleges at Brockport and Geneseo.

At informal meetings during the last few years the consortium has agreed to share books through the Rochester Regional Library, has established regular meetings, and has arranged for

some of the colleges to share closed-circuit television courses.

Father Lavery expects that in the future coordination of purchasing could be realized, as well as the sharing of a data processing center, a cooperative college store, and centralizing of personnel for common services.

The corporation will be called

Rochester Area Colleges. The State Board of Regents is expected to ask for \$1 million for such consortiums in next year's budget. Similar requests have been cut from the state budget in three previous years.

Peter Barry, chairman of Nazareth College trustees, also is a member of the corporation's executive committee.

Only the Pure at Heart

It happened at the Children's Mass at Our Lady of Mercy on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Father Edwin B. Metzger from St. Bernard's Seminary, who helps at the church, was using a dialogue homily with the youngsters to explain the meaning of the feast day.

After discussion of the immaculate conception itself, he and the young people discussed the 9-month period of gestation.

Sure he had set his foundation, Father Metzger, looking

for the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity, then asked, "Now that that's clear, what do we celebrate on Sept. 8?"

To which came the unexpected answer, "Labor Day."

Father William Amann, the assistant pastor, quickly sized up the repartee as a splendid basis for his evening Mass homily on the labor and love we put into the season of Advent.

Mass League Reveals Changes in Policy

The Mass League, formerly the Daily Mass League, has announced several changes in policy. The most notable is a reversal of the original policy of no dues. Members will now be asked for \$2 a year, \$1 of which will help offset the expenses of implementing the new program. The other dollar will be applied to a special intention of Bishop Hogan.

In the first issue of its newsletter "Share Life," the Mass League explains that in the past, expenses were borne by a few. A low treasury balance was boosted by an appeal to the membership. However, to accomplish the new objectives of increased membership and improved communications with members, a regular income is necessary.

Another change is the restriction of active membership to the Rochester Diocese. There are nearly 7,000 registered members in the diocese. The 40,000 outside the diocese will be classified as associate members. According to Angelo Di Nieri, president, the active program will be offered to other dioceses as soon as it proves successful here in Rochester.

The league had previously announced a name change, a new slate of officers, and co-sponsorship of the traditional First Friday Luncheons. The first issue of "Share Life" is the league's regular communication with its members. Initially, the newsletter will go to all members on a bi-monthly basis. Plans call for monthly publication in the near future.



Greece Parish Plans Adult Education Meetings

Father Frank E. Lioi (right), assistant pastor of St. John the Evangelist's Church, Ridge Road West, discusses program with members of the parish Christian Formation Committee, which plans next monthly meeting Jan. 9. From left are Frank Consler, committee chairman; Sister Rose Christine, SSJ., coordinator of the parish Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program; Mrs. Jane Donovan and William McEvily.

Mass of Resurrection Held for Fr. Fischette

Mass of the Resurrection for Father Robert M. Fischette, CSB., former dean of St. John Fisher College and former vice principal of Aquinas Institute, was concelebrated Dec. 10 in St. Ambrose Church.

Father Fischette, a native of Newark who spent most of his life in Rochester, died Monday morning, Dec. 7, 1970, while observing a St. John Fisher student teacher in a class at John Marshall High School. He was ordained in 1940.

He is survived by his father, Rocco M. Fischette; four brothers, Joseph A., Bernard J. and Richard L., of Rochester, and John F. of Los Angeles, Cal.; a sister, Sister Pierre, SSPS., superior of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit in Ghana, Africa, and several nieces and nephews.

A graduate of St. Francis Xavier School and Aquinas Institute, Father Fischette entered the Basilian Fathers' Novitiate in 1931 and began studying French, Latin and philosophy at St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto. He received a master's degree in 1943, and in 1946 was appointed director of studies at Aquinas Institute. Three years later he became vice principal.

Father Fischette joined St. John Fisher College in 1958 after receiving a doctorate from the University of Buffalo. He served as dean at the college from 1958 until 1961, when



FATHER FISCHETTE

he became director of studies and general administration for the Basilian Fathers in Toronto. He returned to St. John Fisher in 1968 as professor of education and was also in charge of testing students for graduate school.

Father Fischette published two books on education and wrote numerous articles on stamps which he collected. Those close to him termed him "dedicated to education" and "a master of detail." He gave a great deal of time counseling students.