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Before and After

The ornate uniform of the Vatican gendarme (above) has caught up with the times and given way to mufti (below). The Holy See's military corps has been disbanded and a new "Vatican Central Office of Vigilance" set up, with most of the gendarmes joining the new organization. (RNS)



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Chemung County Schools Consolidation Plan OK'd

Elmira — Chemung County parishes will inaugurate a Regional School Plan next Fall to upgrade the quality of parochial education and cut operating costs through consolidation.

Clergy of the county meeting with Bishop Hogan and Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty in Elmira Monday morning reaffirmed the plan proposed by a Coordinating Committee of the Chemung County Catholic School Board and already approved by that board.

Bishop Hogan hailed the cooperative plans as the first major advance toward salvation of the parochial schools of the diocese since the Diocesan Educational Task Force began to push regional consolidation.

Major elements of the plan include converting St. Anthony's School into a religious education center for the area public schoolers, opening a central Catholic Junior-High School in St. Patrick's School building, and reorganizing children of seven parishes into four elementary schools.

Other plans include expanding kindergarten classes to possibly four instead of two and placing more emphasis on religious training for public school students.

The Coordinating Committee's

Bp. Hogan: Remember All POWs

The Bishop's letter to pastors is, in centerfold, Page 12-13.

By JOHN DASH

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has designated Sunday, Feb. 14 as a day of prayer and letter writing on behalf of all prisoners of war in Vietnam, both American and Communist.

In a letter dated this week and addressed to each pastor in the Catholic diocese, the bishop praised the work of petition campaigns around the country urging the North Vietnamese government to treat American prisoners of war in accord with the Geneva Convention.

At the same time, in what was an allusion to a report made public by the International Red Cross, July 24, 1970, regarding conditions of imprisonment of Communist prisoners of war in South Vietnam, Bishop Hogan wrote:

"The time has come for an even greater drive to present the feelings of the American people to Hanoi and Washington and Saigon as well, to better the lot of not only our beloved American brothers but also the lot of our beloved Communist brothers.

"The time has come for us to petition all the involved governments for treatment of the prisoner of war with the dignity due him as a son of God."

A diocesan spokesman said the bishop's statement was made in response to requests from individuals associated with the recently established "Remember our POWs/MIAs

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plan originally submitted last Nov. 24 was adopted by the County Catholic school board on Dec. 10 and approved by the Diocesan Educational Task Force on Jan. 4. A city-wide meeting at Notre Dame High School and individual parish meetings gave the plan deep consideration and favorable consent.

The plan as adopted contained the following practical advantages:

- estimated savings of \$72,000 in the 1971-'72 school year over this year's parochial totals;

- inauguration of a Junior High School, long desired in the area and needed as feeder for Notre Dame High.

- a kindergarten for all con-

solidated regions;

- minimal busing of small children;

- retention of an inner-city school;

- strengthening of already established lines of communication;

- a full-time principal for every building.

Bishop Hogan praised the clergy and their parish leaders for the consolidation action which "will serve as a model for other regions throughout the diocese."

"Enthusiastic leadership and an optimistic attitude from the pastors will make this plan an accomplished fact next September," he said. "We shall all continue to look beyond the school

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Contingency Proposal Backs Up School Talks

By ALEX McDONALD

"Supposing the Educational Task Force ideas on regional organizing, money raising and teacher supply are not adopted, or quickly fail? What happens then?"

Parents, teachers and pastors are asking these questions in every parish.

While the Diocesan Educational Task Force Report, released Jan. 13, recommending programs to keep the "maximum possible number" of parochial schools operating, is still being discussed on lay and religious levels, a "Contingency Plan" was proposed this week to cover the possible failure of some parishes to keep their schools alive.

The "back-up plan" recommended to Bishop Hogan by the Task Force suggests how schools should be chosen for saving if the goals of the original Report prove to be unattainable.

The 17-member committee suggested five criteria to guide the proposed diocesan and regional boards in reallocation of resources if financial or staffing reasons threaten the death of individual parish schools.

An overriding principle, the Task Force said, in the application of the criteria, is that "schools which manifest the Church's special mission to the poor should receive priority considerations for continuance."

Schools should be preserved, they stated, which—

- provide a good CCD program;

- have the greatest parent interest;

- have cooperated with regional planning;

- meet educational standards required by the diocesan and regional boards.

The Task Force suggested that the nature of each parish should be the determinant when the diocesan and regional education boards were asked to help a particular parochial school to survive.

In the "contingency plan" the schools to be saved would be in those parishes which "have

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Two Corning Schools to Consolidate

Corning — Consolidation of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parochial schools will take place in September.

To be known as "Corning Catholic Southside School," all eight grades comprising more than 300 pupils will be taught in St. Mary's Building.

Announcement of the amalgamation came Sunday from the pulpits of the two parishes. Father Thomas F. Brennan is pastor of St. Mary's and Father L. Emmett Davis is pastor of St. Patrick's.

Consolidation is expected to

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