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Guard Seizes Church

North Carolina National Guardsmen armed with loaded rifles crouch behind a wall as other Guardsmen enter the Gregory Congregational Church in Wilmington, scene of three days of racial violence. Armed black high school students had abandoned the church the day before after using it as a sanctuary and the troops found the building empty. Violence centering around a boycott of the city's public schools by blacks resulted in two deaths and several injuries. The church, a center for the black community, had been the target of several bomb threats during the disturbance. (RNS)

School Signups Hopeful

By CECELIA VIGGO

The last chapter in the "Decline and Fall of the Catholic Schools" has yet to be written. And true to good literary craftsmanship, the story may conclude with an unexpected twist, on a fitting "resurrection" note.

Salvatore G. Musso, deputy diocesan superintendent of schools, is one harbinger of this "good news."

"When our registration days are finished in early March, we are confident that the parish school attendance for next Fall will show that the de-

cline of the past few years has been generally halted," he said.

His optimism is reinforced by the enrollment predictions of the majority of Catholic elementary principals in the diocese.

Sr. Anne Marie Fehrenbach, SSJ, principal of St. Monica's school, and chairman of the public relations committee of the Rochester Association of Catholic School Administrators, has evaluated the results of a survey sent to 90 Catholic elementary principals in the diocese.

She expects a sizable increase

in pupils in September.

Her analysis shows that 57% of the principals who responded foresee a rise in enrollment in their schools for the 1971-72 school year.

Even more surprising, and more hopeful, are the results that 43% of those schools who responded plan to open a kindergarten or additional grade section this year, or in the near future.

But many schools cannot open classrooms nor welcome a bigger student body.

"We're running at capacity now," was the frequent response of principals who neither welcome nor predict an increase in enrollment next year.

Why this sudden upsurge? What has stimulated new family interest in the parochial schools?

Those principals whom I interviewed offered several reasons.

Many schools followed the suggestions of the diocesan School office which advised

(Continued on Page 2)

Wednesday, February 17, 1971

School Head Urges Rocky to Reconsider Speno-Lerner Attack

By CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI

Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools in the Rochester Diocese, expressed disappointment at Gov. Rockefeller's rejection of the Speno-Lerner Bill, the major nonpublic school aid proposal before the Legislature.

"The nonpublic school issue is so urgent and critical this year," he said, "that I would hope that statesmanship could be found in Albany to find some way of adapting the bill to reach any real objections the governor may have."

"I suspect Gov. Rockefeller's criticism is left over from last year," Father Brent continued, "and I think in the light of the urgency for such aid that he would re-examine his objection."

The governor declared in a

news conference Feb. 8 that he would oppose and probably veto the parent-aid bill sponsored by State Sen. Edward Speno (R-Nassau) and Assemblyman Alfred Lerner (R-Queens) — which would provide up to \$250 annually per child to parents of non-public school students.

The governor indicated he would oppose any legislation authorizing tuition grants to parents of nonpublic school students. He said such legislation would encourage parents to send their children to private schools rather than integrated public schools.

Father Brent feels that Rockefeller is still considering the bill in its 1970 form and said additional safeguards have been added this year against those wishing to flee integration.

(Continued on Page 2)

In Chemung County

Educator - Businessman To Direct Schools

Elmira — The appointment of a "research comptroller" to direct the consolidated school system planned by the Chemung County Catholic School Board will be the next step in the reorganization of parochial education here, Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty announced this weekend.

The comptroller, who will combine the roles of educator and businessman, will coordinate such projects as budgets, cooperative purchasing and regional financing.

The new area setup will include four elementary schools, a new junior high school and a regional center for religious education of public schoolers.

Full details of the financing of the consolidated schools and the tuition costs are still to be announced.

Bishop McCafferty was strong in his praise for the planning work of the Coordinating Committee of the county school board. The 12-member group, elected from all the parishes of the area, brought to completion consolidation ideas that have been discussed in this area for several years.

Sister Mary Agnes Zimmer, RSM, working for the school board, has been a prime factor in the solution of the issues, the Bishop said.

Major elements of the con-

solidation include converting St. Anthony's elementary school into a religious education center for public school children, opening a junior high school in St. Patrick's school building, and busing children of seven parishes into four elementary schools at St. Mary's, St. Casimir's Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Peter and Paul's.

Four buses will be purchased for the consolidated school system.

School boards will continue to function made up of representatives from each parish or area with students in the school. They will be concerned with both CCD and Catholic school education of all children in their area.

An elected Chemung County Board of Religious Formation to oversee the total education picture of all Catholic youth in the county is expected to be the next major step in reorganization of the teaching programs here.

The Coordinating Committee which proposed the consolidation also gave the parishes a challenge to action. "We believe that the present decline in the Catholic school population in Chemung County should be carefully studied, vigorously acted upon and hopefully reversed. This plan is a proposal for such action."

ON THE INSIDE

Features	Columnists
Editorial 22	Greeley 20
TV Movies 16	Costa 16
Letters 22	Cuddy 20
Women 21	Considine 20
Entertainment 16	Shamon 22
Keeping Tabs 18	Child 21