



Father Albert Shamon, left, and Father Daniel Brent.

Catholic Educators React To Court's School Rule

By LAURENCE E. KEEFFE

Catholic educators in Rochester have reacted immediately with sharp criticism to the U.S. Supreme Court's finding that aid programs for non-public schools in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island "entangled" church and state in violation of the constitution. The Court handed down its decision Monday, June 28.

Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of the diocesan Office of General Education, called the decision a "kick in the head." Father Albert Shamon, episcopal vicar of education, said the finding was "legalism in the worst sense of the term."

On the Friday before the court's decision, Governor Rockefeller signed a bill similar in some respects to the statutes struck down. It will provide \$33 million in aid and salary supplements to New York's non-public schools.

Father Brent, commenting on the New York program, said, "Of course this is a different law. Whether it falls substantially into the same category of 'entanglement' is a question for the lawyers and the judges. I don't think so, but then I'm not trained in these questions."

If the Supreme Court decision affects New York public aid plans, said Father Brent, "The inner city will be our most severe, immediate problem."

If opponents of the New York legislation can obtain an injunction to stop payments by the state to parochial schools, said Father Brent, "a lot of Rochester parishes will have problems — particularly the ones with inner city schools."

He pointed out that the six parochial schools in the inner city which receive diocesan funding still had a deficit of \$100,000 which state aid should be expected to erase. As for the

other inner city schools not assisted by the diocese, Father Brent said, "We won't know how much they budgeted for state aid until the end of July."

Father Shamon, vicar of education, said, "I have not read the decision," but noted an apparent paradox in the court's decision. "With one hand the Supreme Court says parents have the constitutional right to educate children in the school of their choice," he said, but, "then when they choose to exercise this right, the same Supreme Court decrees that they must do so without the financial help given to parents of children in public schools."

"This is blatant discrimination in its ugliest form," said Father Shamon, "for going to school is mandatory, not optional. The state chooses to subsidize certain segments of the community while denying the same to others purely on the basis of religious principles."

Despite their criticism of the decision, diocesan educators did not adopt an entirely pessimistic attitude. Father Brent noted that the Supreme Court's opinion left the way open for direct subsidies to the parents of parochial school students. The legislature passed over such a pro-

posal, the Speno-Lerner bill, during the last session.

Father Leon Hart, CSB, remarked, "I try to look on it as a blessing in disguise. The freedom of our schools has been protected. I am hopeful that other avenues of aid will avail themselves to us."

The court's ruling distinguished between indirect aid for busing and textbooks, which it approved in earlier decisions, and direct aid for teachers' salaries such as provided by the two states.

Pennsylvania in 1968 authorized reimbursement of part of the costs of salaries, textbooks and materials in specific secular subjects. Rhode Island a year later started to pay non-public elementary teachers a 15% supplement to their annual salary.

The Supreme Court overturned both laws.

In the majority opinion, Burger wrote that "teachers have a substantially different ideological character than books." On the grounds that supervision of "secular" subjects would require excessive involvement of the state in church affairs, the court decided the First Amendment would be violated by this form of state aid.

A Perfect Attendance

Dansville — Like the proverbial mailman, nothing could keep John O'Connor from his appointed rounds in Dansville schools. He has never missed a day of school since he entered first grade in 1959.

O'Connor, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Connor of Washington St., Dansville, is a parishioner of St. Mary's Church.

He received a college entrance diploma at commencement exercises recently at the Dansville Senior High School.

At the time, Donald Munson,

principal of the school said O'Connor's outstanding achievement is the first 12 years perfect attendance record compiled in the area in many years.

O'Connor earned majors in mathematics and science and will enter Alfred Ag-Tech in the fall to study construction technology.



Hornell Evening Tribune

JOHN O'CONNOR

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Ecumenical Group Seeks Answers On Rural Housing

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Cato — Grass roots solutions to problems of rural housing needs in the northern Cayuga County region are being explored by an ecumenical group who met at St. Patrick's Hall recently.

Area needs had been identified as an acute shortage of new housing units, including low income housing for the elderly, apartments or alternative mobile units to attract or keep younger couples. The group seeks to reverse the trend of graduates and newly-marrieds moving from their familiar rural environment because of lack of housing to urban, already crowded conditions.

Representatives from Cato, Red Creek, Ira, Victory and Conquest assessed the needs and resources of the area, and reviewed the statistical reports of the Cayuga County Planning Board. Also present were representatives of FISH, CCAP (Cayuga County Action Program), school officials, and citizen groups interested in improved conditions.

The group decided moves should be through the area churches who are in direct contact with the people and situa-

tions. A followup action committee also will coordinate already existing efforts of smaller groups. Organizational structure will be explored as well as sources of revenue, low cost housing for the elderly, "seed" money to attract private contractors and rehabilitation of already existing facilities.

The group chairman, Father Elmer Heindl, pastor of St. Patrick's in Cato, St. Thomas in Red Creek, and St. Jude's in Fair Haven, commented, "There is a growing recognition that people should not always look to governmental agencies, which work from the top down, to identify and remedy all social conditions at the local levels. In today's complex society, so many factors are affecting the individual family unit, that the family is having a difficult time fitting into the complex picture of a changing moving society."

"The legal community is overburdened, and the political machinery sometimes becomes unwieldy, so it comes back to the local citizen who must concern himself with the basic human needs, which include adequate housing. And, what community more than our own Christian community should be concerned."



Sisters Mary Ann Raymond (left) and Mary Ann Mayer

2 Sisters Going to Brazil

Two more Sisters of St. Joseph have been assigned to the community's missions in Brazil and will be leaving for there in August. They are Sister Mary Ann Raymond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Leslie Raymond of St. Charles Borromeo Parish; and Sister Mary Ann Mayer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman F. Mayer of St. Margaret Mary Parish.

A special ceremony marking their departure will be held at the St. Joseph Motherhouse on Tuesday evening, July 13, at 7:30. Bishop Hickey will preside and present the two Sisters with their mission crosses. Friends and relatives are invited.

Both Sisters entered the congregation in 1958 and have

B.A. degrees from Nazareth College.

Sister Mary Ann Raymond has taught at Holy Rosary, St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris; St. Lawrence and Holy Trinity in Webster where she is now coordinator of their non-graded primary department. Sister Mary Ann Mayer has taught at DeSales High in Geneva for eight years.

Both Sisters will be doing necessary preparatory study for several months in Brazil before they begin their work in that country.

The Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph opened their first Brazilian mission in 1965. At present there are eleven Sisters serving there in various educational and social works, both in the cities and in the rural areas.

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