

Chemung Schools 'Working Great'

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira—The Chemung County Regional Catholic School System is a little more than a month old and "things couldn't be better."

That's what Dr. Thomas R. Curren, president of the Catholic School board here, said recently in an interview with the Courier-Journal.

Dr. Curren's optimistic pronouncement was seconded by Sister Mary Agnes, superintendent for Catholic schools in the Southern Tier, who said, "Everything is working great and the system is meeting our expectations."

A new concept in Catholic education took form Sept. 8 when five consolidated elementary schools opened in Chemung County. A new Catholic junior high school also opened its doors as part of the new system.

Dr. Curren said he believes the Catholic schools in Chemung County are "a lot stronger since we entered into this new system. We now have full time principals in all six schools, as compared to the old practice of using part-time principals, or having two principals in one school building, which had been the case in the past."

Dr. Curren emphasized that under the new system "more communication between the principal and the parents can take place. There is also more time for meetings between the teachers and the parents."

A learning center at each school "gives us a great deal of latitude in each building," Dr. Curren continued. "We can give students more individual attention, and they can now do projects using their own initiative. This helps to make a better school system."

Concerning costs, the board president reported:

"Our budget is \$520,000 for this school year. We have estimated that it is \$72,000 less than what the cost would have been if we had not consolidated. The \$72,000 is a reduction in operating expenses."

Dr. Curren believes one reason the system has worked so well is simply because "we have a game plan."

"We have been talking about doing something about the Catholic school program in

Chemung County for many years. Finally someone said this is the way to go, and we took it."

"We have been able to retain an excellent school in our inner city area," he added, "even though the parishes that comprise that school have parishioners who are in an income group with less than average earnings. This is a way of making equality pay off."

Sister Mary Agnes said, "the parents gave us a vote of confidence when they decided to continue to send their children to the new school system."

"We have the lowest decrease in enrollment among all the schools, when we look back over the past 10 years."

Asked if she thought consolidation would be a system all Catholic schools in the U.S. would have to face eventually, Sister Mary Agnes said, "I wouldn't predict for the entire United States, but I would hope that the rest of the schools in the diocese would follow suit when they look at our plan and see how it is working."

Hospital Draws 53 Freshmen

Elmira — The 63rd class of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing began their studies last week.

Forty-eight students reported for the three year registered nurse program. Twenty-six communities in New York and Pennsylvania are represented.

In addition, five students entered the hospital's School of Certified Laboratory Assistants.

Rochester has the greatest number of students enrolled in the new nursing class, with residents of Chemung County ranking second.

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Liturgy Group Notes Changes

Owego — The experimental liturgy committee at St. Patrick's Church has moved past the experimental stage, into the implementation process, developing changes in the church's liturgy.

The committee was formed in 1968 when St. Patrick's was selected by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission to be an experimental parish for the funeral liturgy.

The committee helped to develop a new funeral liturgy and was able to organize a women's choir for funeral masses. It is providing new funeral missal-ettes for the Mass of the Resurrection.

One of the committee's first recommendations was the stand-up reception of Holy Communion. Another area where the committee has moved ahead is the Sacrament of Baptism.

In an effort to bring a more personal meaning into the liturgy, the committee recommended and the parish adopted a new baptismal liturgy, which calls for the baptism throw, a blessed candle, and a baptismal booklet to be given to each child received into the Church.

Elmirans Attend State Meeting

Elmira — Arnold Jerome, vice-president of St. Joseph's Hospital, attended a three-day meeting last week of the New York State White House Conference on Aging in Albany.

The hospital administrator is a member of the state conference, along with the Rev. Robert McCune, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Elmira, and Joseph Ober, Jerome and Ober are District Eight chairmen.

The state conference was convened to ratify policy statements which New York will submit to the federal government Nov. 28 in Washington, D.C.

Apalachin Parish Sets Meeting

Apalachin—The Parish Council of St. Margaret Mary Church will hold a special meeting at 8 p.m. Sunday to discuss three major topics.

The group will study the parish census, deal with CCD registration results and financial requirements and discuss Council goals. Chairmen will be elected.

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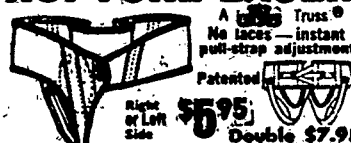
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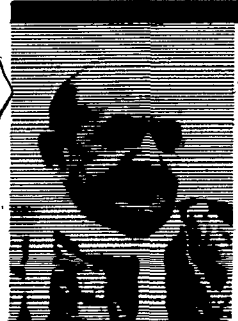
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THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

DO SOMETHING MEANINGFUL WHILE YOU'RE STILL ALIVE

This column's happiest readers are the men, women and children who know they're needed. The days we're busiest helping others are the happiest days of our lives. . . . Who needs you most? Surprisingly, God needs you — for instance, to help an abandoned orphan become a God-loving, responsible adult. Lepers need you (there are still 15-million lepers in the world), blind children need you, and so do we. . . . Here in New York we are your agents, telling you where the Holy Father says your help is needed, and channeling your help promptly and safely to the people in need. . . . Want to feel good right now? Do without something you want but do not need, and send the money instead for one of the needs below. You'll feel good, especially if your gift is big enough to mean a sacrifice to you. This is your chance to do something meaningful for the world—it's God's world—while you're still alive.

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