

Consolidation Proposed For Auburn Schools

Auburn — Three Catholic elementary schools here are considering consolidation to pool facilities and services as a means to more progressive school programs. The plan was announced recently at a meeting in which more than 200 people, mostly from the schools concerned, Holy Family, Sacred Heart and St. Aloysius, heard Father Albert Shamon, vicar of education, and Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools.

If sufficient support is forthcoming, the program will be implemented in September. Sacred Heart will house kindergarten — grade 2; Holy Family will house grades 3-6, and St. Alphonsus, grades 6-8.

Grade levels were assigned to the three schools based on the facilities most able to serve the particular classes.

Enrollment projection for the fall consolidation indicates a total of 964 students with Sacred Heart with 222 pupils, Holy Family 341, and St. Alphonsus with 401. Total enrollment at the three schools is now 1,058.

The plan was suggested following review by the three school boards and principals Jan. 21. Sister Irene Gardner of the diocesan school office met with the boards to review

five consolidation plans which had been prepared by Father Brent, and Sister Irene.

Under the plan, school staffing can be cut from 41 teachers at the three schools to 33 teachers. Each school will retain its own principal.

According to Sister Mary Faith, Holy Family principal, the plan encourages departmentalization and specialization of teachers by subject and class level. While the plan would result in economies, more importantly, the schools would pool resources, materials and promote better educational opportunities.

Another aspect of the proposed merger would be the strengthening of the religious education program, Sister Mary Faith said.

The diocese allows for flexibility in the religious education teaching program with alternatives ranging from religion taught daily to once or twice weekly.

The consolidation of programs is expected to encourage creativeness among teachers who can call on expanded resource materials, consultation and visual aids. Teachers may specialize in religious education at various grade levels.

State Reading Scores Announced in Auburn

Auburn — Holy Family third graders and their teachers are bragging a bit over their achievement in the state reading evaluation tests held last Fall, according to Sister Mary Faith, principal.

According to an analysis recently made by Sister Madeline Therese, SSJ, reading special-

ist in the Nazareth College department of education, 27% of the children achieved above average scores. This compares with the 28% average throughout the diocese and the 24% average for the Auburn community.

In the average classification 67% of the Holy Family children made the grade compared with 61% on the overall diocesan level and the Auburn community level of 58%.

Below average were 6% of the Holy Family youngsters. This compared with the 11% diocesan average and 18% community level. This analysis was made taking into account capacity or native ability as indicated by the children's IQ's. Several children actually exceeded their indicated natural capacity to attain higher achievement.

Auburn Area Notes

Auburn — The third session in CEDAR's Teacher Training Course will be held Thursday, Feb. 17, at the CEDAR office, at 7:30 p.m.

Auburn — A Sorrowful Mother Novena is held at 8:45 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church.

PEARL Lauds Decision

New York — (RNS) — A spokesman for 31 civic, religious, educational, civil rights, parent and labor groups applauded the recommendation by a New York State commission urging that state aid to non-public schools be halted.

The action of the so-called Fleischmann Commission was described as "a welcome recognition that public schools have the only legitimate claim on the public purse."

Speaking for PEARL — The Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty — Mrs. Florence Flast, the coalition's vice president, said the agency hoped Gov. Rockefeller and the Legislature "would heed the call of the commission, based on a two-year in-depth study,

for an end to violations of the state and U.S. Constitutions created by state aid to religious schools."

Mrs. Flast, a former president of the United Parents Association of New York City, said that far more important than economy is the "threat to religious freedom from government control and governmental freedom from divisive religious pressures that state aid to religious schools has posed from the beginning."

She noted the commission reflects "a welcome recognition" by many distinguished persons in New York that public schools, "now in dire need, have the only legitimate claim on the public purse."

Courier-Journal

At St. Ambrose Parish

Help for Senior Citizens

Members of Volunteers In People of St. Ambrose parish took steps at their first 1972 meeting to organize VIP on a permanent basis.

At the Wednesday, Feb. 2 meeting, VIP members voted on and passed by-laws to the original guidelines laid down by Father Gerard Guli when the organization was formed at the beginning of Lent in 1970. Officers were elected, standing committees were authorized, and new moderator Father Thomas Burr was welcomed.

Volunteers In People, according to Mrs. Louis E. Lupo, re-elected president, is "a service club offering assistance to

people confined or restricted because of age, illness or specific circumstance." Its assistance is also available to organizations aiding such individuals.

Other officers elected are Mrs. Clifford Monteau, vice president; Mrs. Kenneth Scarciotta, secretary; and Mrs. William Miller, treasurer. Mrs. Walter Mayrl continues as consulting secretary.

VIP was founded in 1970 because of an initiative taken by Mrs. Mayrl, director of the North East Senior Citizens organization at the time. She approached Father Gerard Guli, who was recently transferred to St. Michael's parish, with her idea for a parish organization to further the Lenten exercise of visiting shut-ins in private homes and at St. Ann's Home for the Aged.

The group also discussed plans being made for a celebration in May to honor senior

citizens of St. Ambrose parish and their friends. A campaign to send Valentine's Day cards to residents of St. Ann's also was begun.

When VIP became a permanent organization, it also expanded its activities to include emergency transportation and child care.

"Junior VIP's" are eighth graders from St. Ambrose who also visit St. Ann's Home, and serve there as Candy Strippers.

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Sunday Lenten Series Set

A Sunday night series of talks on morality as developed in Scripture will be sponsored jointly by St. Ambrose and St. James parishes during Lent.

William Gassett of Youth for Christ, Batavia, will be the first speaker, Feb. 20 at St. Ambrose. Father Sebastian Falcone of St. Bernard's Seminary will speak Feb. 27 at St. James; Father Charles Mulligan of the Office of Human Development, March 5 at St. Ambrose; Father William McKusker, SJ., of McQuaid, March 12 at St. James, and the Rev. William Showalter of Parkminster United Presbyterian Church, March 19 at St. Ambrose.

All meetings will begin at 8 p.m. Discussion and refreshments will follow the talks. The public is invited.

JA Students Ready Display For Midtown

Eight hundred Monroe County High School students will be operating their own business on the Midtown Mall during Junior Achievement Week. The students, from 26 schools, participate in 36 Junior Achievement companies. They will join together at Midtown Plaza to present their third annual J. A. Trade Fair. The fair will be the highlight of J. A. Week which begins, Monday Feb. 21 and runs through Saturday, Feb. 26.

This fair gives the public an opportunity to meet with the future business leaders of this area and watch them at work learning correct business attitudes.

Got Some News?

The Courier-Journal wants to print news of your organization, club or association. Please remember that the deadline is Thursday noon for the following week's paper.

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Look at the nearest \$10 bill. What is it actually worth? Only what it will buy. These days, it will hardly buy enough to feed a family for two days. In the Holy Land, it will feed a poor refugee family for an entire month. The Holy Father asks your help for the refugees, more than half of them children. Your money multiplies—as you give it away.

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