

Consolidation Dispute Rises in Horseheads

The diocesan schools office hopes the recent rift between St. Mary Our Mother Church and the Chemung County Catholic School Board can be ironed out locally.

"They have the forum for discussion in the board there; and the hope of the board is that Horseheads will reconsider," Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, said last week.

The Horseheads parish wants to pull out of the school consolidation program started last year. The request to withdraw was made at a meeting of the school board Thursday, Feb. 10.

Father Bartholomew J. O'Brien, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother, said the main reason for the school's reported withdrawal from the consolidation

was rising costs for the parish, instead of projected savings under the program.

School board members approved a two part resolution which called for a special sub-committee to discuss in detail the finances of the past two years and projected costs for next year to see if differences could be settled.

Father O'Brien said the Horseheads representatives to the school board had voted reluctantly two years ago to enter the consolidation program and have stayed with the project up until this time "to be friendly."

The consolidation program has been praised in many diocesan circles for its approach to Catholic education on the elementary and junior high level.

A Tale of Two Cities

Elmira, N.Y.—Calcutta, India—This story has two datelines because the people involved live in separate parts of the world.

One of the individuals, Mrs. Mary DesJardins lives in Elmira, while her "son", Father M. A. Arokiaswamy, is a native of India and lives outside of Calcutta.

Twenty-five years ago Mrs. DesJardins' natural son, Charles, was asked to write to a little boy in India who wished to have an American pen pal. The pen pal turned out to be Father Arokiaswamy.

Mrs. DesJardins says her son wrote faithfully to the Indian youth until he was ready to go away to college. "I asked Charles if I could open Father Arokiaswamy's mail and correspond with his since Charles would be busy with college. He

said go ahead and that's how I now have another 'son'."

"I decided to write him that I would now be writing to him.

"The next thing I knew I received a letter from Father Arokiaswamy which started 'Dear Mom'. He had been an orphan all his life and he had never known who his mother and father were.

"He asked if he could be my son and I was the first mother he had ever really written to."

The Elmira woman said she kept corresponding with Father Arokiaswamy and was pleased when he told her he was planning on entering the seminary.

"It's been 14 years since he became a priest and I'm very proud of him."

Elmira CYO Basketball

Elmira—Division championships are still undecided as competition in CYO basketball here begins to wind down.

The latest scores in B Division games show Our Lady of Lourdes 34, St. Mary's Southside 20.

In other B Division action John Baker's 17 points led unbeaten St. Patrick's to their 11th straight win, 52-32, over St. Mary Our Mother. St. Casimir's defeated St. Charles, 36-27, with Jeff Sobkowski netting 14 for the winners, while Matt Jurusik scored 16 in a losing cause.

In the final B Division contest, St. Anthony's overpowered Sts. Peter and Paul 37-10. Don Frosalone tallied 12 for the winners.

A Division contests saw Sts. Peter and Paul edge St. Anthony's, 60-59. Mick Ramsey scored 16 for the winners, and Joey Capece 27 for St. Anthony's.

Powerful St. Casimir's pushed St. Charles, 81-40. Dan Zerich's 18 points led 11 players in the St. Casimir's scoring column, while Dave Pesesky had 22 for the losers.

In high school competition, a "no contest" was declared in the St. Casimir's-St. Mary Our Mother game. The "no contest" was ordered because of a misinterpreted rule. St. Casimir's had previously been declared the winner, 72-70.

CYO basketball officials say the game will be rescheduled.

In other high school action, St. Mary's Southside defeated Our Lady of Lourdes, 79-63. Jim McCarthy scored 23 points to enable St. Mary's to retain its hold on first place in the division.

In two other games Sts. Peter and Paul went down to defeat at the hands of St. Anthony's, 84-73, while St. Patrick's edged St. Mary Our Mother, 76-72.



Dorothy Day At Watson

Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and internationally known Catholic activist will be the keynote speaker at a conference on "Prayer and a New Social Order" at the Watson Homestead March 3-4. The conference is sponsored by the area Christian Formation Board.

POPE, HILLERY MEET

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI received Foreign Minister Patrick J. Hillery of Eire in private audience. After the 35-minute meeting, Hillery told newsmen he had talked with the Pope in the conviction that the Vatican could play "a major part" in bringing the situation in Northern Ireland to a "peaceful conclusion."

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Youth Mission Slated At St. Casimir's

Elmira — There will be a Catholic Youth Mission at St. Casimir's Church on Feb. 28-March 2, at 7:30 p.m. It is for all youths in the area.

Tuesday, Feb. 28—"Why not love Christ!"

Wednesday, March 1—"Why not love everybody!"

Thursday, March 2—"Why not see Christ's love in action!"

The mission will be conducted by Father Joseph G. Bernier, of the Blessed Sacrament Community, Bronx. Father Bernier is skilled in conducting such a mission.

His topics are:

Monday, Feb. 28—"Why not love."

Thursday Deadline

Thursday noon is the deadline for news and photos for the Courier-Journal of the following week.



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