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They Like Their School At St. Hyacinth's

By MARY ANN GINNERTY
THIRD IN A SERIES

Auburn — St. Hyacinth School, with 225 children enrolled in kindergarten through grade 8 includes 90% of the school age children registered in the parish. Tradition and parental attitude, insisting on Catholic education for children, have a strong hold here, according to Father Felix Bracikowski, OFM Conv., pastor.

The school is staffed by six Sisters from the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, and three lay teachers, with a ration of 25 pupils to every teacher.

Principal Sister M. Evarista brings a wealth of experience and academic background to school. She holds a masters degree in education and another in clinical psychology from the University of Detroit, with clinical training at Northville State Hospital in Northville, Mich.

The objective of the St. Hyacinth School Learning Program is one that includes the notion of continuous pupil progress. It promotes flexibility and is designed to facilitate the teachers' role in providing for pupils' individual differences and for fostering growth patterns unique to each child.

The main features are: (1) to create a learning situation that will produce a favorable self-image and enhance self-confidence, and (2) to provide successive experiences essentially pertinent to the child at each point in his development.

As a student's weaknesses are identified, teachers aids also are available for individualized instruction.

A strong emphasis is placed on the reading done in conjunction with the reading center at Hilbert College in Hamburg, N.Y.

Parish Council Holds First Open Meeting

Seneca Falls — The open parish council meeting at St. Patrick's Feb. 29 was the first of its kind in the Rochester Diocese, according to Nickolas V. Midey, president.

The council held its first organizational meeting in March of 1970, with the first parish elections in June of 1971 and the completion of the constitution this past summer.

One open meeting yearly is mandatory under the constitution. It extends involvement opportunity to all interested

Religious instruction is carried out by the priests in grades 4 through 8, and the primary grades are taught by the Sisters. "The role of the priest is to teach religion and seek out, not just in church, but in school as well. The religious program in the school is the pastor's responsibility," explained Father Bracikowski.

In carrying out this responsibility, he arranged a day of prayer for grades 7 and 8. Seminarians from St. Hyacinth College, Granby, Mass., conducted activities which included the Liturgy, the Rosary, a Bible service, lectures, slides, discussions, and a sing-a-long. Another such day is anticipated in the Spring.

Over the past five years the school has added tape recorders, overhead projectors, record players, television sets, talking story books, talking alphabet, teaching cassettes, head sets and other audio visual equipment.

A voluntary music program featuring clarinets is available in the upper grades. Grades 3 and 4 have participated in a learn-to-swim program at the "Y".

Fashion is not overlooked with the adoption last year of red pants suits for girls. Older girls were able to sew their own outfits in school.

Considerable emphasis is placed on creativity in work; an exhibit of children's work featuring a certain theme, such as art, math, science, and various creative outlets, is held each year for parents and friends.

There is a book rental at St. Hyacinth School for those belonging to the parish. The non-parishioners pay a tuition. The remaining educational disbursement is subsidized by the parishioners.

parishioners and fosters communication and understanding of the function of the council, which serves in an advisory capacity to the pastor, Father Leo E. Lynch.

The feeling of community was enhanced as the workings of the parish and diversity of problems, from school expenses to liturgical committee reports, were shared openly with parishioners in attendance. A question and answer period followed the formal session.

Auburn Area Notes

Auburn — Pre-Cana marriage preparation course, March 19, 20, 24 and 26 at 8 p.m., St. Aloysius, 162 Van Anden Street, Auburn.

Lyons - Clyde - Savannah — March 21, the Inter-Parish Lenten Program Lecture, "The Christ," will be given at St. Michael's, Lyons.

Waterloo-Seneca Falls-Ovid — March 19, Inter-Parish Lenten Program lecture, St. Mary's Waterloo.

Savannah — Parishioners at St. Patrick's will celebrate their patron's name day with a ham dinner at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

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Moravia Women to Aid Health Survey, CCD

Moravia — St. Patrick's Altar and Rosary Society held its bi-monthly meeting on Monday evening, March 7. Father William Gaynor, pastor, opened the meeting with a prayer, after which Mrs. Arlene Murphy, president, conducted the business portion of the meeting.

Gifts were voted to the Cayuga County Health Planning Committee, which is seeking to determine the health care needs in the county and ways to meet them, and to St. Patrick's CCD program, for awards to be given students at the end of the year.

Mrs. Alberta O'Connell and Mrs. Dorothy Proctor were named as the committee in charge of arrangements for the annual banquet in May.

After some discussion, it was agreed that members would resume the practice of receiving Communion in a group at the 8:30 Mass on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in

May. This practice had been discontinued several years ago.

Plans were made to hold a baked food sale after the Masses at St. Patrick's on Saturday evening, May 27, and Sunday, May 28. This is usually a big weekend at St. Patrick's, with many campers from Fillmore Glen State Park attending church services.

Plans for a fall bazaar and baked food sale were discussed. Women of the parish will be asked soon to begin making articles for the bazaar.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Violet Gernand.

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