

St. Alphonsus ... Continuous Progress Theme

(Last in a Series)

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — St. Alphonsus School, 101 E. Genesee St., with an enrollment of 539 students in kindergarten through grade 8, has seven members of the Sisters of St. Joseph on its staff of 25. Sister Mary Dorothy is full time principal.

St. Alphonsus is one of three schools, including Holy Family and Sacred Heart, that have the possibility and implications of consolidation under evaluation by special committees in preparation for parish voting on the issue in the future.

At St. Alphonsus the continuous progress program is stressed in the primary grades with children tested and placed in reading groups at their level of ability, regardless of grade level.

Through the use of the multi-text approach in the reading series, the program can be individualized.

This approach is meant to prevent serious reading difficulty in the upper grades. The Basal Series GINN 360 is in use in kindergarten through grade 3, and will be expanded into the 4th grade next year.

A learning resources center was established two years ago when the library was expanded to include filmstrips, records, cassette tapes, and other audio-visual aids.

Sister Mary Dorothy explained, "All these materials teach and make learning an enjoyable challenge. It encourages research and individualized studying."

She feels the use of learning resources center facilities provides enrichment. Remedial instruction can be assigned by teachers according to individual needs.

A full time teacher aide provides individualized instruction in reading. Volunteers also are available to work under the teacher.

The number of classes and available staff permitted departmentalization in the 7th and 8th grades for the past six years.

Flexibility to adapt to special teacher skills encouraged the cooperative teaching approach at the 5th grade level which is semi-departmentalized. Three 5th grade teachers assume responsibility for specialized subjects.

The physical education pro-

gram encourages sense perception and social development. The program at the primary level emphasizes muscle tone, coordination, strength, stamina and endurance.

A religious program highlight is the "Praying Together" in the morning as a child recites an original or favorite prayer over the PA system.

Religion is taught by the home-room teachers in the elementary department. Continuous teacher training is available through the Christian Education Department, Auburn Region (CEDAR) program.

The priests are involved in special celebrations highlighting the "Come to the Father" series.

Sister Brian handles religious instruction at the 7th and 8th grades and is a staff resource person along with the priests.

An enrichment program for grades 7 and 8 is being planned. Father Lewis Brown, associate pastor, conducts a popular photography club.

Special undertakings include publication of the year book by



Fourth graders Gerard Daly, Mark Morabito, and Robert Daloia in the St. Alphonsus Learning Resources Center.

the 7th and 8th grades and a bi-monthly newspaper which encourages student responsibility and involvement. St. Alphonsus hopes to publish an inter-parish newspaper this spring.

A canteen was initiated for upper grade students two years ago. Open from 3 to 5 p.m. on alternate Fridays, it provides opportunity for students to enjoy music, table tennis, games, and a place to socialize.

The faculty at St. Alphonsus includes kindergarten teachers, Mrs. Marie Main, Mrs. Ann Maher; 1st grade, Sister Paul, Miss Lorraine Molson; 2nd grade, Mrs. Suzanne Hutton, Miss Barbara Squires, Mrs. Florence Hoffman; 3rd grade, Mrs. Constance Driscoll, Mrs. Ann O'Hara; 4th grade, Mrs. Ann Foley, Mrs. Margaret Daly, Sister Josephine; 5th grade, Donald Assmann, Richard Lenhard, Mrs. Mary Rogers; 6th grade, John Harding, Sister Margaret Clare; 7th and 8th grades; social studies, Charles Lissow; language arts, Ronald Kany and Sister Mary Ellen Bossack; math, Edward Iles; science, Sister Mary Clouser; religion, Sister Brien; physical education, Mrs.

Bunye Brown, L. Gerard McGee; library aide, Mrs. Elaine Koziol; teacher's aide, Mrs. Irene McLaughlin.

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George Shamon Dies; Auburn Civic Leader

Auburn—George B. Shamon, Auburn political and civic leader, died unexpectedly Monday, March 20 in Mercy Hospital.

Mr. Shamon, a life resident of Auburn, and a graduate of St. Aloysius Elementary School and Auburn Academic High School, was a 1931 Notre Dame University graduate and a 1934 graduate of St. John's Law School in New York City. He was a member of the New York State Bar Association, and past president of the Cayuga Bar Association.

He was an active Catholic layman and was past grand knight of the Knights of Columbus. A civic leader, he was past president of the Mercy Hospital Board of Directors and a member of the Executive Committee, a director of the YMCA-WEIU, the School for Retarded Children, the Cancer Fund and the Seymour Library.

The Auburn Citizen-Advertiser praised him editorially on March 21. "George Shamon was one of those individuals who put as much, if not more, back into his community as he took out," the paper said. "He had a zest and a strength of belief which were

his trademarks ... George Shamon was a warm and happy man, whose size and sometimes booming voice hid a gentleness. He was most generous of his time, talents, and money—in short, he was a soft touch."

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Catherine Shamon; two sons, George J. and Thomas J. Shamon of Auburn; two brothers, Father Albert J., vicar for religious education for the diocese, and Father Edward A., pastor of St. Aloysius Church; five sisters, the Misses Elizabeth, Marie, and Lillian Shamon, and Mrs. John Halek, all of Auburn, and Mrs. Eugene Ferrari of Port Jervis; two grandchildren, Catherine and Mary Shamon.

Auburn Area Notes

Auburn — Sorrowful Mother Novena ends March 31, 6:45 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 168 Van Anden St.

Auburn — St. Alphonsus First Communion Class Eucharist, Holy Thursday, March 30 at 5:15 p.m.

Auburn—St. Mary's First Communion, Holy Thursday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m.

Auburn—Auburn High School student faculty string quintet will take part in Good Friday evening services at St. Mary's with its church choir under the direction of Paul Brechue. The "Seven Words of Christ on the Cross" will be performed.

Courier-Journal

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