



Sign of Peace

Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

After a vote by class and by the student government, students at St. Bernard's Seminary erected this sign looking south on Lake Avenue during the rush hour Wednesday, April 26. Sitting in front of their work are seminarians (front row) Bernie Duffy, Gerry Wahl; (rear) Bill Leone, Thomas Coester, Joseph Hart, Salem Elalami, and Mike Krupiarz, one of main organizers.

3-Judge Court Voids Private School Aid

The decision by a three-judge federal panel to bar aid to private schools under the state Mandated Services Act drew immediate and harshly critical response from diocesan officials.

Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools, calling the decision "a serious financial blow to our schools" and also declared that "the courts seem to be aligning themselves as unwitting conspirators in making it increasingly difficult for parents to provide a value-oriented education for their children."

The state, according to Atty. Gen. Louis Lefkowitz, will appeal the decision to the United States Supreme Court which is the only court that can hear appeals from decisions by federal three-judge courts on special constitutional questions.

The decision will cost the diocese about \$1.3 million in aid per year which constitutes reimbursement for state-required

services such as administering examinations, maintaining attendance records and making other reports.

The court found, in a 2-1 decision, that the aid violated the constitutional separation of Church and state. District Judge Morris Lasker wrote the opinion with the concurrence of Judge Paul R. Hays. Judge Edmund L. Palmieri dissented.

The law was challenged by the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty (PEARL), a coalition of 33 organizations, including civic, labor and religious groups.

The coalition won another victory last year when it won a decision overturning a 1971 state law that had provided \$33 million a year to parochial schools to help pay teachers' salaries and other costs for secular subjects.

The recent spate of decisions (Continued on Page 2)

Father Brent Statement On Court's Decision

I am extremely disappointed with the decision of the court on the Mandated Services law. It appears that the three judge court has extended the Supreme Courts' decision in the Lemon Case to include things that appeared to be exempted by the higher court.

I have not seen the decision so I am uncertain of the logic used to support it. We hope and expect that the State will appeal this decision to the Supreme Court. I remain optimistic that the constitutionality of this law will ultimately be upheld. In deciding the Lemon case last June, the Supreme Court said that the states could provide "secular, neutral, non-ideological services, facilities and materials." It would be difficult to believe that testing and record keeping would not fall into that category.

In the meantime, this will be a serious financial blow to our schools. The courts appear to be aligning themselves as unwitting conspirators in making it increasingly difficult for parents to provide a value oriented education for their children. I hope that legislators and the Supreme Court justices will not permit diversity of education to disappear in this country because of an unwillingness or inability to see beyond the shibboleth of "wall of separation" to the distinctions between promoting religion and serving people's needs.

New Features and a Special from Bishop Hogan

Three new features make their first appearances in today's Courier-Journal — George Beahon's "In This Corner," Father Louis Hohman's "The Open Window" and Charles Randisi's "What Do You Think?"

These, along with a special series by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on Page 3, lend special zest and interest to this week's edition. The Bishop discusses his fondest hope for the diocese — the formation of a Pastoral Council.

Beahon, award-winning sports columnist, makes

his Courier debut on Page 15 and his first column sets the tone for his no-holds-barred style as The Kentucky Derby is put into Beahon perspective.

John Doser's "Scholastic Notebook" shares the page to give Courier sports enthusiasts one-two coverage.

"The Open Window" prepared by Father Louis Hohman, also begins today on Page 12. Father Hohman, the episcopal advisor to the Courier-Journal, will be fielding your questions concerning faith and morals and

other issues facing today's Catholics.

Charles Randisi, on the other hand, is taking a different tack — he's going to be asking questions of you. On Page 7, he kicks off his new series "What Do You Think?" and turns up some opinions on Archie Bunker.

The new features complement our regular lineup which features Father Shamon on the Gospel on Page 4; Fathers Atwell and Cuddy on Church views, Page 5; Sarah Child on family life, Page 22;

Pat Costa's view of television, Page 17; Leonard Lyons column on parish councils, Page 6.

A series on sleeping problems begins in Mental Health Commentary on Page 22.