

# School Bells Ring in Two Weeks

It's that time again. Two weeks from today the parish schools will ring the bell on vacationers and the Catholic high schools will be in that first-week process of assembling by classes.

By Monday, Sept. 11, it will be as if summer had never happened.

The diocesan education department faces the new season with optimism, according to the superintendent, Father Daniel Brent. This year, he said, the decline in enrollment slowed, and new emphasis was placed on the "religious uniqueness" of the schools, creating an atmosphere of promise for the future.

Enrollment figures, however, have not been filed yet by more than half of the schools.

The proportion of lay teachers and Religious in the system seems to have become stabilized here. Alice Conway, personnel director, reported that fulltime lay teachers in diocesan schools last year numbered 738, and Sisters, 430.

"I do not expect too much fluctuation," she commented.

A spot check of the high schools proved not very revealing, inasmuch as enrollment figures are tentative until school actually has started. Aquinas Institute hasn't reached its normal 1,100 yet; Bishop Kearney High School has gone past 1,800, and McQuaid says "about the same," or 750.

For news, the smallest of the secondary schools is in the lead. De Sales in Geneva, which expects 390 students or 50 fewer than last year, will capitalize on its smallness by emphasizing individualized instruction. The principal, Sister Rose Eileen, SSJ, said that approach would be used in chemistry and the

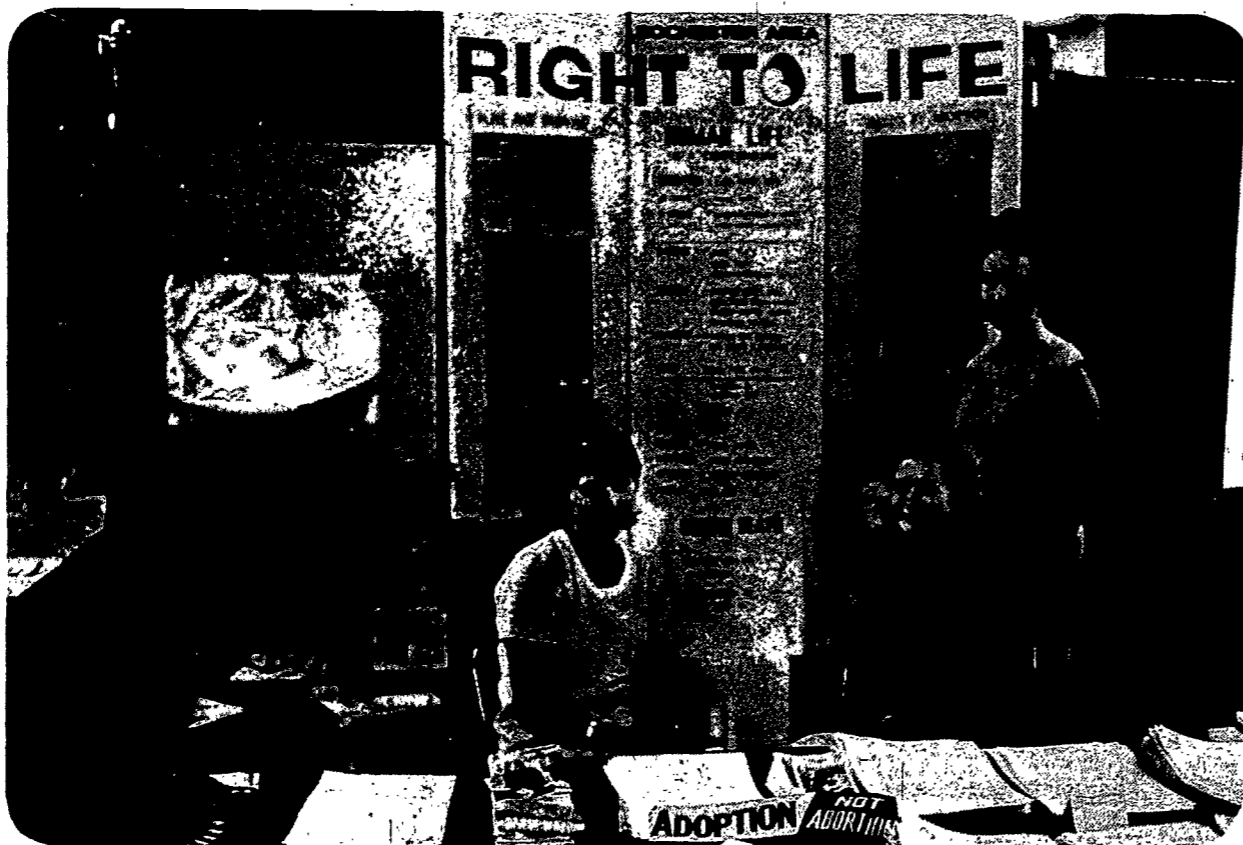
freshman physical science course; in math 9 and to some extent, math 11.

## Schools Today

"I think that is the trend — individualized instruction," she said. "There are problems of space, and keeping classes small enough."

There will be eight religion courses for juniors and seniors to choose from. They will be able also to elect their own studies, and teachers, in the English program.

The school is going on a "rotating" schedule, a seven-day cycle. Most of the other high schools have abandoned the Monday-through-Friday concept, but at DeSales it pays off with an activity period at the end of each day and a real lunch hour, for everybody, all at the same time.



Right to Life

This booth at the Monroe County Fair last week caused a stir among passersby with its graphic presentation of the evils of abortion. Staffing the booth sponsored by the Rochester Right To Life committee are, from left, volunteers Mrs. Michael Grattan, Mrs. George Goodwin and Mrs. Charles Dyring.

## Rochester Priests Visit Communist Bloc Lands

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

East Berlin is very self-consciously Communist; Russia is strong, self-confident and frankly Communist; Rumanians don't let politics interfere with their lives and Yugoslavia is a beautiful place to hit the beach — according to three Rochester priests who recently visited these eastern bloc countries.

With an itinerary like that, you can't help learn something. But, Fathers Joseph Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary; Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, and William J. Graf, professor of homeletics at St. Bernard's were on a three week tour set up for educational purposes.

The tour, entitled Promoting Enduring Peace, is organized by 81-year-old Dr. Jerome Davis, a Quaker from Sandy Springs, Md. who has made the trip annually since 1916 when he went to Russia as a YMCA worker in prison camps set up for Germans.

Visits to schools, collective state farms, hospitals and meetings with educators and politicians were arranged for the priests and others on the trip who were teachers, ministers,

psychologists and newspaper editors from all over the states.

The priests agreed that the Russian people they met were proud of their country, its great literary and musical tradition and of its progress over the last 50 years. The Russians interpreted President Nixon's visit as proof that the USSR and the US are now equals.

Father Brennan explained that the Russians look at our society and see things they dislike as much as we do their system. He said the ever present political posters and slogans got on his nerves after awhile. That is, until he turned on the radio upon his return to America only to be told what deodorant and foot powder to use.

"Here we are subjected to a multiplicity of stimuli and they are open to only one, the state," Father Brennan continued.

"We spend billions on advertising for things no one needs," he continued, citing advertising for guns and constantly changing clothes styles as prime examples of things in our society that are "as perverted as a lot of things they put over."

Minimum wage in Russia is 130 rubles — about \$150 a month;

there is no unemployment and virtually no poverty, reported Father Brent.

Teachers' salaries are about 180 rubles (\$207) a month, the school superintendent continued.

Prices are controlled and set according to the product's necessity. A truck is sold at little above cost while the price of a car is way above what most people can afford.

Father Graf commented on the Russian system of goods and services in reference to hospital care: "The important thing there is to give the services, the fringe (like bright colors or smiles) may not be there."

The priests were impressed with the cleanliness of the streets in Russia. After a circus, attended by 1,500 people, there was one pop bottle and one newspaper left behind, marveled Father Brennan.

The Russians are a very disciplined people, and very conscious of the obligation society can place on the individual, and the need to work for the common good, the seminary rector continued.

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## Year of Renewal Ready to Begin

By JOHN DASH

The three bishops of Rochester will open the diocese's special religious program, the Year of Renewal, at the weekend liturgies of Sept. 9, 10.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will say Mass and preach at the Cathedral. Auxiliary Bishops John E. McCafferty and Dennis W. Hickey will open the year in the same way at St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, and St. Januarius Church, Naples, respectively.

"The goal of renewal is readiness," Father Daniel Holland, diocesan director for the program, said last week while outlining plans for the Year of Renewal.

He said the program will have a two-fold thrust. First, to establish a parish council in each parish, and second, to educate both practicing and non-practicing Catholics more deeply in the realities of their faith.

"There's no way we're going to measure how effective the sec-

ond is," Father Holland said. "Maybe this year the church-going Catholics will stop the non-church-goers and ask them to re-examine their faith."

"We've had so much change, as Catholics and citizens, maybe this is the year to take stock of our values and change them if need be," Father said.

"We're hoping the parish council will become the nucleus of something more than just administering to the financial needs of the parish. We're also hoping the layman will preach the Gospel."

Earlier this year a study paper, "The Mission of the Church to the Diocese of Rochester," was issued. Father Holland expects this to be "studied and meditated over" by priests and laity during the year.

Included in the events during the Year of Renewal are parish missions, retreats and days of recollection; the establishment of a Renewed Diocesan Youth Movement; a Diocesan Synod and the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council.

## What Do You Think . . .

### About Busing?

By CHARLES RANDISI

Busing of children out of their school districts to achieve racial balance is a hot issue all over the country, including Rochester.

I recently asked several people at McQuaid High School and elsewhere what their feelings were on the subject.

Mrs. James Campisi, a Webster housewife, said that a major criterion for her in deciding whether or not to move to a certain district was to "check out the school situation there." She said, "I'm against busing. If I don't know what school my kids will be going to, what would be the point in moving?"

Robert Bradley, a McQuaid English teacher, and track coach, said, "I would be against busing if I was in the situation of having my children bused to the inner city. But I think I would be in favor of it the other way around, if it is beneficial to education.

"My wife and I were watching a David Susskind special on busing the other night. He had

several people on the show who I thought would have stereotyped opinions against busing. But they presented their case in a convincing and impressive way. I didn't like the smugness of some of the people who were in favor of busing."

"I think that if you have to pay for it, then forget it," said Louie Maggiulli, a senior at McQuaid. "You should be able to decide where your kids will go to school. Busing is not the answer to the problem of segregation."

John Lloyd, another senior, said, "The important thing is education. We shouldn't let busing get in the way of giving kids the best education possible. Can't they put some of the money into improving the quality of schools?"

Another educator who wished to remain anonymous said, "Busing cannot be a substitute for integration. If it is used ultimately to achieve percentage integration, then it's ridiculous. The question is education."