



Stadium Purchase

The Aquinas Stadium and its 19 acres on the northwest edge of Rochester will be purchased and operated by the city as a site for public concerts, festivals and sporting events. Discussing the transfer last week were, I-r, Joseph P. King, chairman of the Aquinas trustees' finance committee; Father Richard Allard, vice principal of Aquinas; Joseph Fornarola, student government vice-president; Mayor Stephen May; Father Leon Hart, former principal and trustee and Mrs. Angela Fornarola, parent representative to the Board of Trustees. The purchase price approved by the city council is \$750,000.

Despite Cutbacks Elsewhere Teaching Sisters Announce

Diocesan Schools Safe

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The Sisters of St. Joseph and School Sisters of Notre Dame are withdrawing from several schools in Massachusetts and Connecticut, but no such action will take place here because the Rochester Diocese has something the others lack.

The determining factor, according to local representatives of the two orders, is planning.

The Massachusetts Province of Notre Dame sisters announced Dec. 22 that they will withdraw from 13 of the 50 Catholic schools the order staffs, as of June. Sister Helen Cornelia Lyons, SSND, superior of that province, said the withdrawals were necessary "to revitalize schools which (the sisters) will continue to staff."

Notification came just a week after the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston announced they would withdraw from 24 schools by 1975, while retaining staffs in 49 other schools.

In neither case does withdrawal necessarily mean the closing of a school, according to the Boston archdiocesan school board. Schools may remain open if local parish authorities are able to maintain them by "some extraordinary plan."

Sister Beatrice Neukirchen, SSND, diocesan assistant superintendent for instruction here, says that her superiors are impressed with the long range, regional planning going on in the Rochester Diocese and that they have promised to go along with the plans.

She reported that counsellors of the order recently visited the seven elementary schools and high school (Bishop Kearney) that the Sisters staff here, and were impressed with the programs.

"I asked them point blank" continued Sister Beatrice, "if they were going to shut the school or not, and they said they would go along with the diocesan plans."

Sister Mary John Van Atta, communications co-ordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph, agreed with Sister Beatrice's statement that planning in this diocese is far ahead of others in the country.

"Our community is working with the committee on education by trying to get regionalism, consolidation and any alternative to letting schools close."

"We don't have a community policy," Sister Mary John re-

ported, "but we are trying to work with the visionary regional plans."

Sister Mary John sees mergers and consolidations happening before schools are closed. Though she admits "realistically, schools will close, due to shortage of staff and money," she added, "I see a leveling off of personnel, more girls are becoming nuns and I see many in the community who feel strongly that education is an important ministry."

Sister Helen Cornelia, provincial of Massachusetts Notre Dame sisters, observed that the problem of declining personnel was pertinent to the withdrawals there. She said that currently there were 977 Notre Dame Sisters in the province, a decline of 126 since 1968.

Over a period of five years, she said, 75 nuns have died, 147 have left the community and 180 are either retired or semi-retired.

Pre-School Program Announced

A pre-school program open to the entire Gates-Chili district and adjacent neighborhoods will begin Jan. 8 at St. Helen's.

An announcement from the pastor, Msgr. Patrick J. Flynn, and Principal Michael Vigue said the program "is being initiated to provide for the needs of a growing community."

Boys and girls who reached the age of three by Dec. 1 may be enrolled in nursery school. For those who became four years old by Dec. 1 there will be a pre-kindergarten. The program will run for 20 weeks. Parents may choose morning or afternoon sessions, for two or three days a week.

Registrations will be taken at the school office, 150 Lettington Dr., through Jan. 8, 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Further information may be obtained through the office, 235-2391.

\$700 Raised For St. Bridget's

More than \$700 was raised to brighten the Christmases of kids at St. Bridget's School.

Neal Trama, who raised the money, said that money is still coming in. A party was put on for the children on Dec. 21, and the rest of the money will be used for camping equipment.

Trama has been organizing the St. Bridget's Christmas party for 10 years.

Wednesday, January 3, 1973

Migrant Children Feted

East Bloomfield - St. Bridget's Parish Hall is a little quieter these days. The pelting season is over and the children of the migrant fur workers have gone home with their parents.

The Migrant Advisory Board of the surrounding towns gave them a rousing sendoff. Along with other community groups, they sponsored a Christmas party for the workers, Dec. 12,

providing punch, cookies, and dancing for the 150 persons who attended. Music was supplied by Algonquin Indians playing the guitar, fiddle, and drum. The staff presented a pantomime play "The Little Gentleman from the North."

Though the party was scheduled from 7:30 - 9 p.m., it lasted until 11 p.m.

Canandaigua Area Notes

Canandaigua - St. Mary's joined the other churches of the city for a joint community sing Dec. 22. A party followed at the United Methodist Church Hall.

Canandaigua - The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Church distributed 52 baskets to needy families of the area this

Christmas, according to Rose Schmitt, president. The baskets contained a complete dinner including turkey, potatoes, dressing, fruit and vegetables. There also was new clothing and toys for the children. The toys were donated by Canandaigua Firefighters, Local 2098. Volunteers delivered the baskets the afternoon of Dec. 22.

Father Erb Recovering

Father Charles Erb, SVD, a native of Rochester, who was struck by a car in Rome in October, is now out of the hospital, and is recovering at the College of the Divine Word in Rome.

His recovery has not been without complications, however. He was progressing well until Dec. 2, when he collapsed suddenly due to a blood clot. The immediate treatment of the doctors prevented this from becoming more serious.

The blood clot prompted Father Erb's nephew John, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Erb of Rochester, to visit him. When John left him on Dec. 18, Father Erb was much stronger, and in good spirits. He is still immobilized by a cast on his right leg.

Friends wishing to write to

Father Erb should use this address: Collegio del Verbo Divino, Cas. Post. 5080, 00100 Roma, Ostiense, Italy.

Keeping Tabs

The St. Pius X Rosary Guild will meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9. Bill Haley, program manager for Channel 21, will speak.

The Mercyhurst College Alumnae Association will sponsor a wine and cheese tasting party Saturday night, Jan. 20, 8-10:30 p.m., at the Powder Mill Park South Lodge. Reservations should be made by Jan. 6 with Mrs. Edward Plonsky.



Ann Rinehart and Jan Mitchell tally labels.

St. Agnes Wins

St. Agnes High School's Athletic Association recently took one first place award in the Community Club Awards program sponsored by radio station WAXC. The girls brought in the most proof-of-purchase labels from local businesses in order to win a cash award of \$75.

Chairmen for the project are physical education director Ms. Patricia Cunningham and stu-

dents Ann Rinehart and Jan Mitchell. The project involves totaling points from proof-of-purchase labels and receipts on products and services bought locally.

The money will be used to pay for sports equipment and referees for Varsity games. The girls are hoping to win a grand prize of \$300.

Necrology of Priests - Year 1972

Priest	Date of Death	Last assignment
Father William F. Nolan	Jan. 8	St. Mary's, Canandaigua
Father Edward J. Eschrich	Jan. 27	Pastor emeritus of St. Salome's, Rochester
Father Frank Valukevicius	Feb. 2	St. George's, Rochester
Father Stanislaus B. Krolak	Feb. 9	Professor emeritus of St. Bernard's Seminary
Father William E. Hayes	Feb. 11	Retired—was in residence at Dominican Monastery in Elmira
Msgr. Charles F. Shay	March 20	Retired Pastor of Holy Rosary Church, Rochester
Msgr. John F. Neary	March 27	Pastor emeritus of St. Michael's Church, Lyons
Father Arthur C. Smith	May 20	Pastor emeritus of St. Cecilia's Church, Elmira
Father E. Charles Bauer	May 29	Founder and director of St. John Bosco House, Rochester
Father John J. Healy	July 22	Pastor of St. Anne's Church, Palmyra
Msgr. Philip E. McGhan	Sept. 16	Pastor emeritus of SS. Peter & Paul Church, Elmira
Father John V. Loughlin	Oct. 27	St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Hornell (Retired Ass't. Pastor)
Father Leo A. Sullivan	Nov. 4	Priest of the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio
Father Edward J. Tolster	Nov. 23	Pastor of St. Augustine's, Rochester

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