



Photos by Laurence E. Keefe



Top: crowd of 600 pledges allegiance to flag at opening of school aid meeting in Bishop Kearney auditorium. Above left: Sister Ramona talks on the enemies of aid to private schools; while above right, J. Alan Davitt listens. Also on platform was, left, parochial lawyer Louis Contiguglia, shown speaking.

600 at Meeting

Private School Aid Called Civil Right

By CHARLES RANDISI

The struggle for governmental aid to private schools is a battle for civil liberties not a religious one, more than 600 persons were told at a rally Sunday night at Bishop Kearney High School.

The rally, sponsored by the various parents' clubs of Catholic high schools and parochial schools, brought in Sister Ramona, CSJ, Louis P. Contiguglia, and J. Alan Davitt, secretary of the State Catholic School Superintendents Assn. They urged parents to persist in the fight for nonpublic school aid.

Dr. William Africano, chairman of the Bishop Kearney Political Action Committee, was the moderator and keynote speaker. He began the evening by calling for action by parents of students in private and parochial schools.

"It is your Catholic responsibility," he said, "to support this work. To pray . . . is totally inadequate. It is not sufficient to merely worship as a Catholic, it is necessary to serve as a Catholic."

He then introduced Sister Ramona, a pro-aid activist from Brooklyn, where in 12 years, 14 Catholic high schools have been forced out of business. Her topic was "Our Opposition and What We Can Do."

She called the fight for aid to private schools a battle for civil liberties. "We . . . are in the forefront," she said, "of a serious battle to retain the civil liberties of the largest religious minority in the nation."

She said one of the most serious enemies the cause had was in attitude. She said that many people fear that by speaking out for aid to schools, they "are being ultra-Catholic."

"But," she said, "you are fighting for an American, not a papist cause."

She also talked about "the enemies from without," which include the American Civil Liberties Union, PEARL (Public Education and Religious Liberty), and Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

Sister Ramona is a former member of the ACLU but withdrew her membership, when it refused to support aid to private schools. "The ACLU," she said, "which recognizes and fights effectively for the freedom of murderers, has a blind spot." She called the group's attitude "blatantly anti-Catholic."

She said, however, that the enemies of the cause for aid are not in the majority, but are "a few bigoted people with money, power, and propaganda."

The last "enemies," she mentioned were Catholics who were not sympathetic to the cause, those "who believe that the mission of the Church is more obviously met in social services, than in the education of our children."

Louis P. Contiguglia, an Auburn lawyer who is presenting the case for parochial aid to the United States Supreme Court,

(Continued on Page 2)

On The Inside

Columnists

Atwell	5
Beahon	15
Bishop Hogan	3
Child	22
Considine	21
Costa	16
Cuddy	15
Doser	15
Hohman	10
Shamon	4
Viglucchi	3

Features

Auburn	17
Canandaigua	14
Elmira	10
Hornell	17
Ithaca	17
Mental Health	22
Movies	16



ST. FEEHAN'S
remember when?

See PAGE 20.

Two Inner City Schools to Close

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The Council of Inner City Parishes has created an inner city school system made up of five neighborhood schools.

The council with representatives from eight parishes and three organizations voted Sunday night to close two schools, St. Francis Xavier and St. Lucy's and keep Holy Redeemer, Immaculate Conception, Mount Carmel, and St. Bridget's as neighborhood elementary (K-6) schools feeding into a centrally located junior high at St. Michael's.

Total enrollment is projected at 1,250 students, about 200 less than now. Total cost will be about \$500,000, about the same as this year. A drop is expected in faculty from 73 presently to about 59 teachers under the new system.

The rationale given for this plan by the task force that has been working on alternative systems for two months is this: the Church would continue its service to the poorest section of the city in an educational capacity; a separate junior high offers more opportunities for the age level than are often available in a school containing younger children; all but one parish

would continue to have an educational base for working families; and a continuous elementary educational program is offered.

This new system replaces the parish school concept with a shared responsibility system. The new inner city school system is not sponsored by, or affiliated with any one parish, but belongs

(Continued on Page 2)