

# Federal, State Monies to Help Schools

Through the efforts of various groups, Catholic schools have been able to secure federal and state monies that help keep them going. Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of schools, explained the three federal grants, called Title I, II and III and nine laws that took effect June 1.

He credits the efforts of the Catholic Schools Administration Association of New York State, the bishops' State Catholic Committee and the State Federation of Catholic School Parents for the passage of the new legislation.

**Title I** — Federal monies will be used to hire remedial reading and math teachers and to operate a bilingual program in the schools. Ten diocesan schools, primarily schools operated by the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP) and those schools on the fringe of the inner city, qualify for Title I funds.

Father Brent indicated that approximately \$500,000 in services is provided to the diocese under Title I.

**Title II** — On a "quasi-competitive" basis, federal money is allocated to schools for library books and materials. "The money is given by the federal government on a per pupil basis but the diocese distributes it in a lump sum to three or four schools," said Father Brent. He added that each school eventually will receive Title II funds but a committee decides which school should have priority, depending on staff availability, space and programs needed.

**Title III** — The development of innovative ideas is given a boost by Title III funds which total approximately \$17,000. Four or five proposals are funded each year, said Father Brent. One example is Sister Doreen Wozniak's early childhood educational program located adjacent to St. Bridget's.

**Mandated services (A 10548)** — A clarification of a previous mandated services bill that was struck down by the Supreme Court as "too vague and too broad," this law reimburses schools for specified services that are required by the state. Formerly the state had given \$27 per elementary student and \$45 per high school student. The schools now receive between \$5 and \$10 per student, depending on services performed.

Mandated services include attendance record keeping, testing, such as Regents examinations and the pupil evaluation program, and statistics required by BEDS, Basic Education Data Statistics.

**Dual enrollment (A 1059)** — This permits Catholic students to take occupational, vocational and education courses for the handicapped provided by BOCES. However, the bill was not signed until after the application deadline had passed. Diocesan students will not participate until next year.

**Defining of Health & Welfare Services (A 10858; S 8931)** — All health services that the public school district must provide to diocesan school children are specified in this law. "This saves us from going to court every time there is a health service that we feel should be available to our children," said Father Brent.

**Expanded definition of textbook (A 6672B)** — Previously only a very tight definition of what constitutes a textbook could meet the requirements for funding. The new law will allow funding for workbooks, lab manuals and other soft-covered texts and will drop the requirements that a book be used for a semester or more.

**Fire Alarm Transmission Repealer (A 12189; S 10471)** — The law permits diocesan schools to link up directly to local fire departments. By not making the link-up mandatory, the law can save the schools approximately \$1000.

**Tuition Assistance Program (A 12484; S 10844)** — Aid is given to entering freshmen who will be attending private colleges. Father Brent believes more money will be given to individual students and less money will be funneled into the Bundy Plan which grants money to nonsectarian colleges on a basis of the number of degrees awarded.

**State Excise Tax Exemption for motor fuel (A 12479)** — A rebate

will be given of eight cents per gallon of gasoline and ten cents per gallon of diesel fuel purchased after March 1, 1974.

**Extension of 10-mile mandate to 15 miles in busing (S 10808)** — This bill will permit school boards, effective this September, to bus children to nonpublic schools up to 15 miles. Presently, grade school children can be bused within a radius of two to ten miles and high schoolers can be bused within three to ten miles.

Although the diocese missed the application deadline for this year, Father Brent believes the extension will be useful in the future and will help the diocese to develop regional school systems.

**Chief School Administrator Certification for nonpublic experience (A 8517)** — Nonpublic

school teaching experience will be accepted for superintendents and district-wide office certification.



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