



Other Side of the Coin

Photo by Susan McKinney

Do seminarians know how to play ball? Just ask John Berry who's at bat in the photo above or catcher Mark Wambach. Beckett Hall seminarians, out to enjoy the nice weather last week, found Mendon Ponds park the ideal place for a picnic.

New Legislation Seen Helping Private Schools

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — Education legislation recently signed into law by President Ford "opens" new opportunities for private (including parochial) children and teachers to benefit from federal education programs," according to the Council for American Private Education here.

The council, which seeks to unify and speak for most private elementary and secondary education in the country, noted in a statement that H.R. 69 ("Elementary and Secondary Education Act Amendments") has "new guarantees in old programs and mandates involvement of the private school sector from the start for some new ones."

The legislation extends the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for four more years (through fiscal 1978), authorizing \$29.1 billion expenditures.

"New features" of the measure for private and parochial schools include the following, council cites:

* "Requirements for private school students to benefit on an equitable basis in programs to be consolidated under state block grants. Both block grants,

Libraries and Learning Resources, and Educational Innovation and Support, will be phased in over two years, the first half probably in the 1975-76 school year."

* "Access for the first time to general instructional materials and equipment open only to public schools under the old National Defense Education Act (Title III of NDEA)."

* "Eligibility to compete for special projects under federal control, such as community schools, metric education, career education, and women's educational equity."

* "Bypass provisions for programs for the educationally disadvantaged (Title I of Elementary and Secondary Education Act), national reading improvement (Title VII of H.R. 69), and state block grants."

* "Required representation from non-public schools on almost all state advisory councils and in the local planning of project applications."

* "And a one-year boost in state grants for improving services to all handicapped children."

A spokesman for the council

said leaders in the U.S. Office of Education and private schools hope that new by-pass provisions "will encourage cooperation at local and state levels to assure children in private schools get adequate service from federal education programs."

He explained that the by-pass allows the U.S. commissioner of education to "step in with contracted direct services in two cases: where state law bars adequate service or where local school districts have 'substantially failed' to include otherwise qualified students who attend private schools in benefits of federal programs."

"H.R. 69 says participating local school districts will be required to loan private school children proportionate shares of 'secular, neutral and non-ideological services, materials, and equipment' or make other provisions for 'equitable par-

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Pray for Vocations Theme of Special Diocesan Drive

Seventy special homilists, almost exclusively seminarians and postulants, will be delivering their message on vocations at churches throughout the diocese this weekend as part of the diocesan Prayer Campaign for Church Vocations.

They will ask parishioners to write letters of spiritual support for vocations and return them to the churches at Masses the following weekend, Sept. 21-22.

This marks the second such annual effort by the diocese. Father Gerald T. Connor, in which 10,000 letters were returned, a "huge success."

He said that the original impact of the campaign last September was "really something," but added:

"What was even more amazing was that throughout the year, as late as April and May, seminarians and postulants were re-reading the letters. In fact, it had a delayed impact that may have been even stronger in the Spring than at the beginning."

Rectories Warned To Stay on Alert

A homicidal robber who preys on Catholic rectories was still at large last week, with more crimes on his record, the FBI reported Friday.

In Michigan Sept. 3, he was using a license plate stolen from a priest he had robbed and kidnapped several weeks ago. The FBI asked the public to watch for West Virginia plate IG 3818.

The law enforcement agency alerted the Pastoral Office early this month to the activities of William Rowland Roberts, 37, a tattooed six-footer with bulging blue eyes. He is charged with murder, kidnapping and robbery in connection with raids on rectories in North Carolina, West

Last year the letters were distributed to reading rooms but this time they will be separated into manila envelopes and sent to individual rooms, to be read and exchanged among students.

Father Connor stressed the importance that the commitment be in written form.

"Last year many people came up to me and said that though they didn't write they did make spiritual commitments such as special prayers. Of course, that is important but it helps even more when those in formation can read the commitment in the concrete form of a note or letter."

The campaign began last weekend when Bishop Joseph L. Hogan asked everyone in the diocese to take part in it.

Many people, for example, pledged special prayers or extra Masses as their spiritual commitment. Others promised sacrifices, such as giving up smoking or observing special fast days. The letters may be signed or left unsigned.

Virginia and Connecticut.

Roberts' latest alleged forays were in Manchester, Mass., where he was foiled by circumstances, and at St. Joseph's rectory, Hadrian, Mich., where, the FBI said, he tied a priest and housekeeper to their beds, as he had done in other robberies. The robber made off with \$1,950 from the Hadrian rectory and tried, but failed, to force a priest to write and cash a check against church funds.

In Michigan, the man added to a list of a dozen aliases, checking in at a motel as Jason Gray of Wheeling, W. Va. He travels with a female accomplice, the FBI reported.

Football Featured

Scholastic columnist John Doser this week begins a special series of reports on the outlook for the six high schools in the diocese. Cardinal Mooney and Bishop Kearney are the subjects of the first reports on Page 19. Aquinas, Geneva DeSales, McQuaid and Notre Dame of Elmira teams will be discussed in upcoming articles.



Back to the Books

Photo by Susan McKinney

Lee Ann Marino, left, and Katie Riedman, right, receive help with their book lists from Sister Evelyn. Bishop Kearney high school was the scene of much activity last week as students were issued their books, freshmen were introduced to high school life and teachers outlined the year's program.