

Catholic Schools on Trial in Section Five

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Carl Palumbo, the immediate Section 5 past president, was in favor of the trial before and during his tenure and is in favor of full-membership for parochial and private schools today.

"I was in favor of it before, no question about it, and I am still in favor of it," he says, pointing out he is speaking as a past president and a member of the executive committee, not on behalf of the executive committee.

"During my term as president I never received any written complaints; I heard some rumors, maybe second hand, but I never heard of or read a direct, written complaint while the parochial and private schools were in the two year trial period," he says.

The complaints, of course, relate to alleged recruitment of athletes by parochial schools. Another obviously related obstacle is the parochial schools' lack of boundaries. The boundaries are the biggest problem says Palumbo.

"The major concern on the part of public schools is parochial recruitment or proselytizing, or whatever you want to call it, but the problem is the unlimited boundaries of the parochial schools," Palumbo says.

Jeff Fitch, head basketball coach at Fairport High, makes no secret of his feeling that because of unlimited boundaries and recruiting, parochial schools, in his opinion, do not belong in Section 5 at all.

"Why should we, for example, be limited to just Fairport, while they can draw from all over Monroe County," he told Channel 10 sportscaster Rich Funke.

Palumbo says he hopes that if any public school is concerned about parochial schools' conduct during the trial period, that school officials will contact Father Eugene Zimpfer, athletic moderator at McQuaid Jesuit High School to give him an opportunity to follow through on the complaints.

Father Zimpfer and Father Daniel Brent, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Rochester Diocese, spent many hours visiting distant communities in Section 5 prior to the second referendum to discuss the parochial-private school proposal with public school officials.

(The second referendum created the trial period as the result of a favorable 56-38 vote; the original referendum, held a year previously, defeated the proposal, 56-30.)

If public schools have concern about parochial school boundaries, there isn't anything Father Zimpfer can do to help, Palumbo says.

"But if they're talking about a certain school talking to a certain athlete, either directly or indirectly, I'd like to have Father Zimpfer have the opportunity to look into it," Palumbo says.

Palumbo thinks the trial has been a tremendous experience for all parochial and private school students.

"I think it's been an excellent thing to enable these students to be able to participate in the sectionals," he says.

"I'm not saying we helped them or they helped us. I am saying that it's been a tremendous thrill for kids to participate in the sectionals and consequently when the private and parochial schools were able to join in, they had the same op-

portunity, and to me, that's what it's all about."

Norm Morreale, principal at Jefferson High, represents the Rochester City-Catholic League at sectional meetings.

"I can't say how the city league will vote, it wouldn't be fair for me... but we're expecting to vote, there has been debate over this question all the way, but people are trying to be fair," Morreale says.

"I know some schools have concern about the boundaries. We are restricted to a district from which we can draw kids and this isn't true of a parochial school which can draw from the whole city or from the whole county. There's an unfairness

about that if you start thinking along those lines."

"I suppose county schools could take a shot at our open enrollment in the city schools; I haven't heard them say that, but it makes sense. The same kind of logic applies," he adds.

Ed Nietopski, athletic director and basketball coach at Cardinal Mooney High, believes parochial and private school membership in Section 5 is great for everybody.

"It helps competition, creates more public interest, especially in sectional tournaments, and I think everybody benefits," he says.

When the results of the referendum were announced two years ago, the Rochester

Democrat & Chronicle welcomed the vote as a step toward full participation in inter-sectional sports.

Most of the parochial-private schools were in regular league competition with public schools anyway, the editorial stated, and they deserved the opportunity to remain in the running for sectional championships.

"Catholic and private school athletic teams also deserve the same chance as public schools for the recognition Section 5 competition can give," the editorial said.

"We hope the two-year trial is successful so the arrangement can become permanent," it concluded.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

A friend has brought me a recent copy of Redbook magazine in which Judith Viorst tells how she manages to keep a writing career going in spite of a husband and three sons, all of whom seem to demand a disproportionate amount of her time.

I read it with amusement and no little self-identification.

True, I have not yet hit the heights of Redbook and I happen to think of myself as a wife and mother who writes rather than a writer who happens to have a family even though I take great pleasure in remembering that I once supported myself for some seven years with the aid of typewriter and reporter's pad.

Still I managed to feel a great deal of empathy with the witty Mrs. Viorst.

Granted she tried some tricks writing at home that I never had the courage to do, such as locking herself in her bedroom with her trio of youngsters pounding on the outside to get in.

I have only one preschooler still at home but I can grant you I would never try such a foolhardy measure.

Given the wonderful opportunity of finding a locked door separated her and her mother, our young innovator in residence might try sawing up the dining room chairs for her newest woodworking project, mix up a seven-egg omelette with a dash of

horseradish thrown in or place a long distance call to Amarillo.

Since the children's father has a thing about locks anyway I have resorted to other tricks. When our son was 12 months and already an expert at climbing out of his crib I used to tie his shoelaces together during his nap so he could not lift a leg over the side.

But most of the time I lugged the typewriter down to the breakfast table oblivious of Captain Kangaroo, spilled milk and a Rice Krispie ambush.

I did not succeed in losing myself in my work too often, which was just as well since on those rare occasions when I did I was likely to get a phone call from my neighbor wanting to know if I was aware that I had a naked child on the swings in the back yard.

And just as Mrs. Viorst learned to cut corners by assigning a specific sock color to each child and covering each of their beds with a fitted sheet and a sleeping bag I too learned how to compromise when it comes to housework.

I resort to diversion. When a friend pops in unexpectedly and the muddy tracks lead from the front foyer straight through the kitchen to the sliding glass door I tell her a rogue elephant has just escaped from a traveling circus and opened the front door with its trunk.

And when she sees three inches of dust on the top of the mantel I ask if the freak monsoon that just detoured from the Indian Ocean didn't pass their way too.

And finally when my husband comes home and finds the only thing bubbling on the top of the stove is the plastic coffee can lid which got too close to the burner I tell him the great new botulism scare has prevented me from opening any cans and how does he feel about taking us all to the new Friendly's at the Four Corners?

As Mrs. Viorst pointed out about writing at home—where there's a will there's a way.