



Walking home from school one last time

An End - - - Or a Beginning?

The last week of school finally arrived. Down came the bulletin boards. Textbooks were collected, desks emptied. Awards Day came and a time for the school picnic. Students attended one last Mass, groaned over report cards, kissed their teachers. Then it was over.

No one had promised, "See you in September." Few had even wished each other, "Have a good

summer!" Most said simply, "Have a good life," or just, "Good-by."

For students and staff at Holy Redeemer, St. Michael's, Immaculate Conception, and Mt. Carmel schools the arrival of summer vacation was dampened by what St. Michael's principal, Sister Betty Ostas, described as "an awareness that we are participants in a portion of history."

That portion was the ending of parochial education in Rochester's inner city June 11. The history that ended that day took more than 100 years to write, beginning with the opening of Holy Redeemer School with 150 students by the Sisters of Notre Dame on Sept. 9, 1867.

The closing of the schools has urged a search for new beginnings. "It's like a death in the family," one principal said, "but what do you do when someone dies? You start anew."

Mrs. Pat Walker, executive director of the Council of Inner City Parishes, the organization administering the four schools which itself dissolved June 30, reported how the students will start anew next year. She said that 250 of the total 735 pupils will attend other Catholic schools. The rest will attend public schools, which they visited with their teachers earlier this year.

Lay and religious teachers must seek new positions. Mrs. Grace Conway, assistant superintendent for personnel in the diocesan department of education, said that not all are seeking employment through her office — Sisters are placed through their orders — but that those who are will be given "the opportunity for employment." Mrs. Conway said that several will continue to teach in other schools in the diocese. Two will teach in Puerto Rico, one on Long Island. Three return to college. One sister plans to study urban ministry. Another opted for a year of spiritual renewal and still another will become a principal.

Of the principals, Sister Betty Ostas will become principal of Corpus Christi School and Sister Norbert Gutacher of Holy Redeemer will work with the Spanish-speaking in the Northwest Region of Monroe County. Ms. Eleanore Volpe of

Immaculate Conception and Sister Marie Louise Blaakman of Mt. Carmel have not decided what they will do.

Mrs. Walker stated that letters of recommendation are being provided for any of the 59 employees of CICIP upon request and that insurance benefits are being extended through the summer until Sept. 4.

The school buildings themselves face a new future. Mrs. Walker said it is hoped that revenue from renting the structures will supplement the parishes' faltering finances. Immaculate will be rented to the Monroe County Department of Social Services and St. Michael's to Community Schools Services of the Rochester Board of Education. Lewis Street Center is negotiating with Mt. Carmel to rent their building, according to Mrs. Walker. No decision has been made on the use of Holy

**THE FUTURE WILL
BE DIFFERENT IF
WE MAKE THE
PRESENT**

DIFFERENT



How different will the future be?



Holy Redeemer students, staff, and friends leave church after Mass on the last day of school.



Members of St. Michael's last graduating kindergarten class, from left to right Sheldon Tucker, Piera Muscarella, Nathaniel Key, Maureen Ashford, and Miguel Santiago.



Mt. Carmel first grader, Jessi