

# School's New Program Focuses on Individual

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — Seventh and eighth grade students at Blessed Trinity School will participate in a new group schedule when they return to school Sept. 3, according to Sister Walter Anne, principal.

"The entire junior-high faculty has spent many hours this summer planning this program," she said. "Each child has been individually programmed to his own special interests and capabilities."

The ability grouping applies to math and language arts courses according to the student's aptitude. The group consists of no more than twenty students, allowing each student more individual attention.

Religion, history and science are taught in regular ungrouped classes. This gives each pupil an exposure to classmates of varied

abilities and interests. In addition to the specialized grouping of skill classes, the other innovation is the establishment of mini-courses.

Students will be allowed to sign up for three of the following mini-courses which will be offered once a week for a forty minute period: railroad appreciation, folk guitar, drama, sewing, journalism, science club, cooking, photography, business club, math club, glee club, chess and history club.

Sister Walter Anne said "These mini-courses will be offered to small groups and will include field trips and special projects. Several people have donated sewing machines and other equipment necessary for the successful implementing of these courses. The junior high of Blessed Trinity is looking forward to a most stimulating and interesting year."

A cigarette now and then. It must have seemed very innocent and exciting and gratifying and casual and smart at the beginning. But the goal was death.

And it can happen to any family.

Herbert Beggs in a letter written to each of the New Jersey state legislators said, "On David's final morning before leaving school, he told a friend that he couldn't stay off pot. I am convinced that marijuana, not LSD, precipitated his suicide."

It takes a courageous man to publically direct the force of his personal pain toward a warning for other parents to spare them the horror of referring to a son's 'final morning.'

From the agony of the Beggs family, and they are not alone in their sorrow, we can learn. From the final two years of a young man's life, we can learn. From the testimony given to a Senate subcommittee, we can learn.

But will we believe?

We often choose to believe only that which is painless and comforting. And it is both painless and comforting to believe that we are mature enough and sophisticated enough to experiment; to believe that we can try marijuana casually without danger. In fact, in our modern and technological world, it is seen as enlightening and penetrating to experiment with alternate life styles, tangential to or at odds with traditional mores.

But marijuana research has not produced painless and comforting results.

I suggest you contact Senator James O. Eastland (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20010) for a copy of the testimony concerning marijuana research given before the Subcommittee on Internal Security. And I suggest you that you contact the local Drug Abuse Control Commission (83 Clinton Avenue North, Rochester, New York 14604) for help and advice.

"Warn Andy and the girls."

It can happen in any family.

### FESTIVAL

Ludlowville — The Lansing Rod and Gun Club in Ludlowville will be a busy place on Sunday, Aug. 17, when area residents join the parishioners of All Saints Church at their annual festival. The activities, including a chicken barbecue, will commence at 12 noon and continue on through the evening.



### Outdoor Mass

On a windswept Lake Ontario beach, Father Donald McCarthy, CSB, celebrates Mass for the Holy Cross Charismatic Prayer Group. The event attracted 175 participants July 12. A similar celebration will be scheduled for early September.

### MISSION SUNDAY

### Parish Hears TOR Missioner

Painted Post — The people of Immaculate Heart of Mary Church heard a mission plea last weekend from the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, which works in India and Brazil.

The speaker was Father Colman J. McCarril, TOR, procurator general for his order's missions. TOR Fathers have been serving in India for 34 years, and along the Amazon River in Brazil for 13 years. The mission office is in Loretto, Pa.

Dryden — Sunday, July 20, Holy Cross Church welcomed Father Ted Kloq, OMI, who spoke about the mission work carried out by his order. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate Mission is located in Jolo in the Philippine Islands.

The women of the parish meet regularly to make articles for the Holiday Happening Bazaar scheduled for the weekend before Thanksgiving. The storage room is beginning to take on the appearance of a colorful and well stocked salesroom.

### ALUMNI BANQUET

Mt. Morris — Alumni of St. Patrick's School gathered for dinner July 12 in Mt. Morris Inn, after Msgr. Thomas Larkin had celebrated Mass for them in the church.

Msgr. Larkin, banquet speaker, talked about Father Andrew Breen, the pastor who built the parish school in 1910. Letters from recent pastors were read. Anthony Barone, outgoing president of the Alumni Association, was chairman of the event.

**AGLOW FELLOWSHIP**  
Father Joseph P. Brennan, will be guest speaker at the Women's Aglow Fellowship dinner at Valle's Steak House, at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 4.

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## Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

David's letter has by now become a legend.

Sixteen years old, he hanged himself at high noon one cold winter school day. His handwritten note to his parents explained that marijuana was his mistake. "You have been great parents to me and please don't blame yourselves for any of this. Warn Andy and the girls love, David."

His final words before death were of love and absolution and warning.

The teen years in many ways are the most difficult to navigate. Sensations, fears, glories and discontent are accentuated. Energies and enthusiasms burst from searching minds. The color and the excitement, the resentments and the realizations. It is during these years that we need, but resent, the gentle guidance of disciplined parents.

But it is during these years too that social and cultural pressures tend to separate us from our parents. Allegiances shift from the kitchen to the classroom, and the questions vaguely forming in our minds are seldom asked at the dinner table.

David Beggs lost sight of something he had always known. He lost sight of the wealth of love and understanding and hope of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Beggs of Mendham, N.J. His yearning mind made decisions and choices, and gave consent, based on the tormenting chaos of drug abuse. And may God have mercy on his soul.

It took only two years. Marijuana was easily attained, easily hidden and easily used. No great sums of money were required to start the habit. No odor on his breath. Perhaps he did not realize the potential dangers. Or perhaps for a ninth grader it was the 'in' thing to do. Perhaps he did not know that a person can get off this drug.

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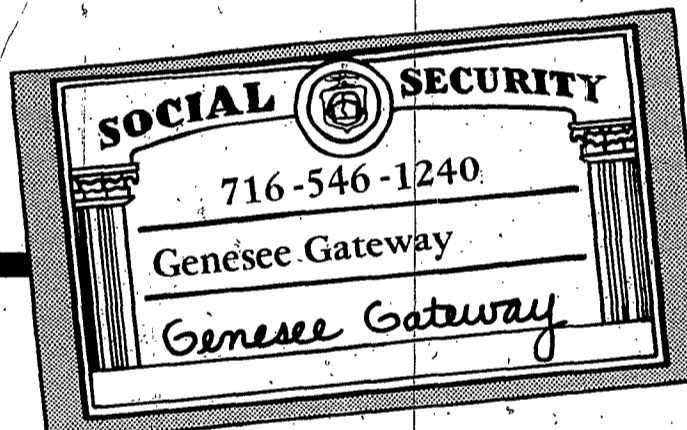
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