

General Education

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special assistant to schools with minority children.

To ease the burden on these offices and to make the department more efficient, Sister Roberta indicated Central Office could be expanded to include another person in curriculum, a person specifically to handle public relations, more clerical personnel and the availability of a computer service.

"Double our budget," Sister said, "and we'd be able to do something."

The Education Department's 1975 budget was \$80,000 which she pointed out averaged to a cost of approximately \$260 per pupil. A larger budget would enable the department, among other needs, to expand its staff and allow for its members to participate in national

and state professional development programs.

Limited budget aside, however, the Central Office accomplished olympian goals in 1975. In curriculum, new courses in Social Studies were introduced at the elementary and junior high levels. The junior high math program was updated. Committee work began in formulating an encompassing language-arts program which will be introduced this year. The department monitored the implementation of legislation allowing private schools use of psychological and sociological services from the public school system. It also designated and directed the elementary schools' self-study program which has been completed in 35 schools.

The department's responsibilities are far reaching and to facilitate its job Central Office uses the ready cooperation of other diocesan offices some of which include the

Planning, Finance, and Religious Education departments, Black Ministry, Spanish Apostolate, and the Liturgy Office.

Sister Roberta views the Central Office's role as a strengthening factor in maintaining and operating the Catholic schools. In her estimation the interest and confidence in the schools has been strengthened and she emphasized "They (schools) will be there as long as the people want them and we maintain their quality."

A priority goal of the department is communication. Through an expanded working association with school boards, principals, and teachers there will be more direct communication with parents and students about the goals of Catholic education which Sister declared "is to develop lifetime attitudes and skills which will help make strong Christians and loyal citizens."

Hospital Chaplains

Father Schwartz's pocket monitor buzzed, asking him to take a call. Dialing the main desk, he learned that he was needed as part of Rochester General Hospital's "health care team." A patient was dying.

Father James A. Schwartz, Catholic chaplain at Rochester General, sees a diocesan chaplain's role as providing "health care."

"We pay attention to more than the physical needs of the patient and minister to his emotional and spiritual needs as well," he said recently.

Area chaplains are members of the Rochester diocesan Association of Health Care Chaplains. Approximately 25 chaplains work together on projects related to health care ministries, including the formation of the Diocesan Medical-Moral Committee, advising to the diocesan personnel board to find qualified chaplains, and planning information days to educate the rest of the diocese on medical concerns.

Father John Rosse of St. Mary's Hospital is chairman of the association with Father Schwartz secretary.

The Diocesan Medical-Moral Committee was formed to advise the diocese on policy regarding current health-related issues. "There are many ethical questions being raised in hospitals that the diocese has had to handle such as euthanasia, abortion, sterilization and tubal ligations," said Father Schwartz.

The committee is composed of physicians, nurses, theologians, hospital administrators, and chaplains, and advises the bishop to help make policy statements.

"We get faced with questions all the time, such as should a Catholic hospital such as St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, perform sterilizations?" said Father Schwartz.

Chaplains recently have been appointed to the diocesan personnel board to advise on new chaplain appointments. "We want to get chaplains that are qualified and who will continue their education in clinical/pastoral



FATHER SCHWARTZ

work. Father Schwartz had two units of Clinical Pastoral Education which is supervised counseling in a hospital setting.

Area chaplains have organized Clergy Teaching Days as a resource to the rest of the diocese on medical matters, explained Father Schwartz.

The day-long seminars featured information on cancer, held at St. Mary's Hospital, and on renal or kidney transplants at Strong Memorial Hospital. Physicians talk to parish clergy on the medical subjects as "practical input."

Clergy can keep abreast of developments and relate this information to a parishioner's problem," noted Father Schwartz.

Area chaplains also meet to discuss their mutual concerns. They actively encourage member chaplains to further their education. Father Schwartz recently received a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Colgate Rochester Divinity School, while working at Rochester General Hospital. His thesis dealt with the spiritual and psychological attitude of a person facing open heart surgery, and their recovery rates.

Father Schwartz emphasized the importance of "sacramental

counseling" in a chaplain's work. "Communion is made available to hundreds of parishioners throughout the diocese every day."

He spoke of the new emphasis of the Sacrament of the Sick, the former Extreme Unction, or last rites for the dying.

"We want to make it a healing rite, and a spiritual preparation for surgery," said Father Schwartz. Baptisms are also performed when there is a danger to the infant's life.

There is no budget for the hospital chaplains, but most are salaried by the hospital. Father Schwartz says that his salary emphasizes "the institution's commitment."

Father Schwartz wishes there were more chaplains. "A problem exists in replacement for continuing education, illness or vacations. There is no one trained to replace you."

A chaplain's presence is a reaffirmation to the sick. The Church needs to be present and visible at difficult hurting times in people's lives."

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