

Catholic School Week . . .

The Curriculum

Curriculum is an educational term which embraces all the activities set by the school to promote its objectives of child growth and development. The curriculum guides used in the Catholic school system share in the excellent qualities of the public school system, and add a special dimension to the development of the child. The child is perceived as a person whose integrity rests upon the fulfillment of his potential as a spiritual, as well as a corporal being. Great care is taken to provide for growth in Christian beliefs, values, and attitudes throughout the school program.

While Catholic education has always maintained a clear emphasis on moral values, it is in our own day that the Church has proclaimed most explicitly that peace and justice are the core of the Gospel and that education for peace and justice is at the core of the Catholic education.

"Since the Gospel spirit is one of peace, brotherhood (and sisterhood), love, patience and respect for others, a school rooted in these principles ought to explore ways to deepen its students' concern for and skill in peacemaking and the achievement of justice. Here young people can learn together of human needs, whether in the parish, the neighborhood, the local civic community, or the world, and begin to respond to the obligation of Christian service through joint action." (To Teach As Jesus Did, 109)

Consequently, the Division of General Education is working through its newly formed Education To Justice Task Force, in

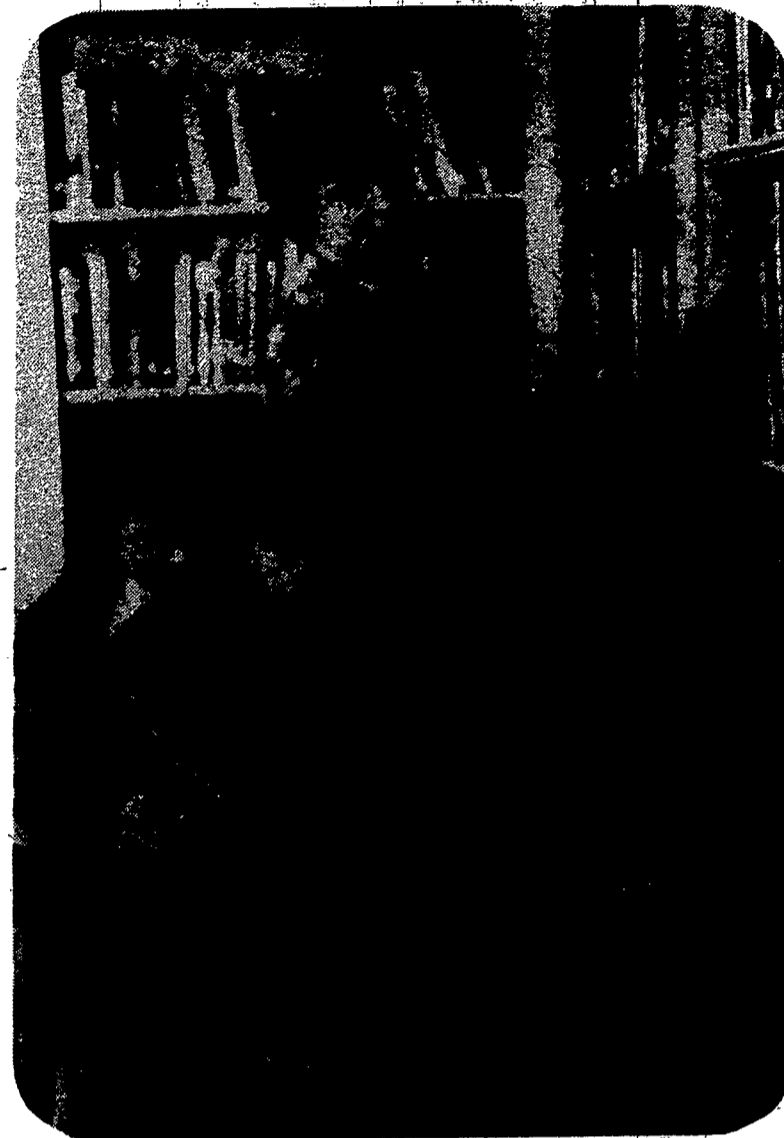
developing curriculum plans which will further enhance educational programs in meeting this responsibility.

In addition to this, a new Language Arts Guideline for levels K-8 was implemented in September, 1976. A survey test will be administered this Spring, as part of the evaluation process for this guideline. Presently, Science levels 1-6, and Social Studies 1-6 are being researched. It is hoped that newly formulated guidelines will be ready for implementation in Fall, 1977, along with a Science 8 guide which is currently being piloted in twenty-three schools in the diocese.

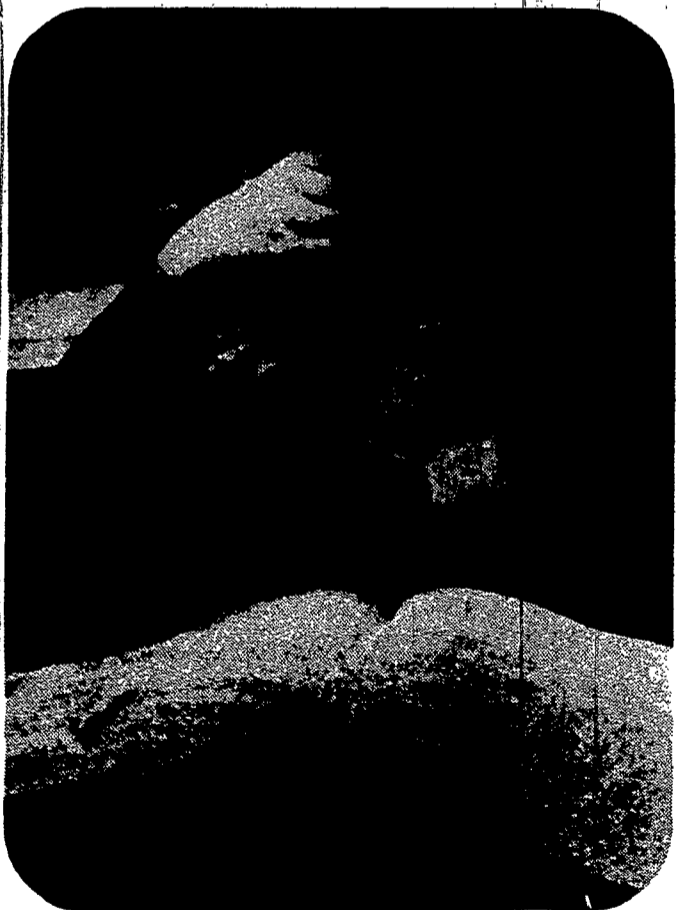
Emphasis on the Humanities is also being given evaluative consideration. A phase of this evaluation includes a pilot study of an Art Guideline in two schools during the 1976-77 school year.

Due to the increased interest in Early Childhood education, plans are underway to develop curriculum guides and assessment for programs in Diocesan schools.

An essential aspect of all Diocesan curriculum development is consultation with national, state, local and inter-diocesan specialists along with significant contributions of time and interest on the part of administrators and teachers in Diocesan schools. These areas of research and study are directed and coordinated by the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum in consultation with the Division of Education Staff.



Sister Barbara Hamm, RSM, principal of St. Louis School, Pittsford, helps students in the library.



Debbie Wiktorski studies math at St. Lawrence School, Greece

What Is ...

The State Federation Of Catholic School Parents...

And What Does It Do?

The New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents is a statewide organization of parents and parent groups committed to the continuance of the parochial school system and to obtaining legislative equality for children in all schools throughout the state. Its activities in Albany have played a prominent role in the passage of legislation such as Text Book Aid, Dual Enrollment, and Mandated Services, among others.

Throughout the state, local chapters serve as vehicles of communication for individual parish groups to the State level, as well as from school to school. In our own diocese, the Southern Tier has had an active chapter for several years, but efforts to organize in the Rochester-Monroe County area were not successful until this past December.

Now organizing in the Monroe County area, the local Chapter sees as its aim the organizing of parish Home and School Associations, School Boards, and Education Committees into one voice in support of the Catholic Schools in the diocese. It will attempt to

put meaning into "parent power" by establishing more effective two-way communication between the Diocesan Office of Education and parish groups, to ensure that parents are involved in all phases of planning for their individual schools. It will establish a communications network among its member school organizations for the sharing of ideas with reference to recruitment and financing. Additionally, it will provide parent groups with current information on proposed legislation at the State level. Finally, it will help parents to organize within their own parishes if they do not already have an effective parent group.

Since its first formal meeting in December, the steering committee of the Rochester Federation has mailed out 1,500 newsletters to officers of school boards, home and school associations, and education committees, as well as to individual parents who contributed to the State Federation. Individual parents who did not receive the mailing are encouraged by the steering committee of the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents to contact the chairman of their school's parent group for further details.