

COURIER-JOURNAL

28 Pages, 2 Sections Wednesday, March 16, 1977 © Copyright Courier Journal Inc. 1977 NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER 20 Cents

Have Catholic Schools Weathered the Storm?

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A statistical report on U.S. Catholic schools — projecting a virtual end to enrollment declines over the next 10 years — observed that nonpublic education today "may be more universally desired and more firmly entrenched than ever before."

The report, a product of the Data Bank of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) here also claimed that despite adverse U.S. Supreme Court rulings on aid to nonpublic schools the Catholic school systems remain "a significant educational force" in America.

It also indicated that "the signs for the 1975-85 decade are most encouraging because major Catholic school declines have wound down and the steady growth of other nonpublic schools continues.

According to the report, projections indicate that nonpublic schools will serve at least 10 per cent of the nation's school children during the 1975-85 decade.

Currently, there are 2,481,000 Catholic elementary school pupils and 883,000 high school students. They comprise 26.7 and 16.6 per cent of the Catholic school-age children in their respective categories.

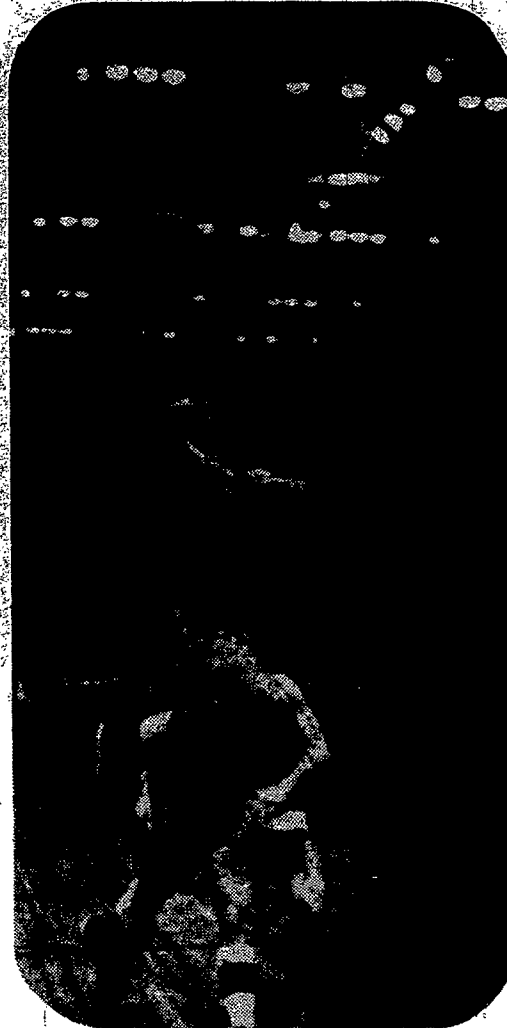
By 1985, the projection is that 26.3 per cent of the elementary age children will be in Catholic schools, a projected decline of 0.4 per cent. But on the secondary level, the report indicates a projected growth of 2.1 per cent.

There are 91 fewer Catholic elementary and secondary schools in 1976-77 than in 1975-76, the Data Bank noted. But the percentage of decline was only

0.9 as compared with 306 in 1970-71. Considering the declining birth rate, the study said, the enrollment decrease was remarkably small.

Contrary to recent trends, the elementary and secondary school faculty of 150,670 teachers reflects an increase of 1,394 teachers. Currently, 65 per cent of the teaching staffs are composed of lay teachers, as compared with 40 per cent in 1967-68.

According to Father Frank H. Bredeweg, consultant to the Data Bank, Catholic schools will be a significant educational force in the nation for many years, to come. "If we are reading current signs correctly, and we think we are, nonpublic education and Catholic schools will be partners upon the American education scene for a long time to come."



DeSales . . . Almost

photo by Susan McKinney

Tim Tapscott, number 25 for DeSales, photo left, finds nothing between him and the basket as he goes up for a layup shot. In the photo at right Bill Tapscott, DeSales 35, adds another two points for DeSales as he shoots over Kendall's Joe Vick, 40. The game neck and neck to the wire, saw Kendall clinch its fifth straight Section C title only in the closing seconds when it held its one point lead to win 64-63.

Regions Discuss 'Action'

BY MICHAEL GRODEN

Grass Roots Design, the third segment of Call to Action: Diocese of Rochester, N.Y., continues this month as each of the

ten diocesan regions meet to discuss and vote on three of the Detroit recommendations selected by Bishop Hogan.

Father Douglas Hoffman, "Action" coordinator,

explained that each region has selected three recommendations that were the closest in the parish balloting.

If, for example, nine parishes in a region voted against capital punishment and eight voted for it, that issue would most probably be one of the three issues for discussion, he said.

Four regions, Southwest, Northeast, Livingston-Steuben, and Seneca-Cayuga, have already held their meetings. Times, Dates and locations of the remaining regional assemblies follow.

Southeast Region March 20, 7:30 p.m. at Guardian Angels, 2061 E. Henrietta Rd., chaired by Father John Mulligan.

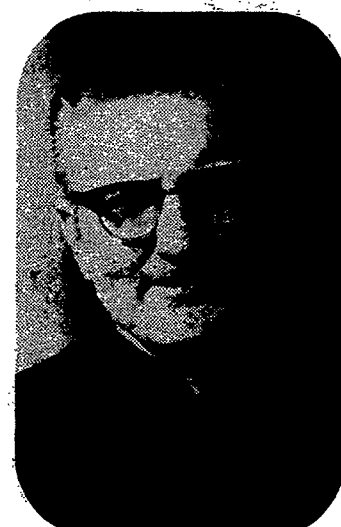
North Region March 17, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Redeemer, 634 Hudson Ave., chaired by Father Conrad Sundholm.

Northwest Region March 20, 8 p.m. at Holy Apostles, 530 Lyell Ave., chaired by Father Eugene Weis.

Yates-Ontario-Wayne Region March 20, 3 p.m. at St. Mary's, Canandaigua chaired by Father George Wiant.

Chemung-Schuyler Region March 20, 2 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights chaired by Mr. Thomas Costello.

Tompkins-Tioga Region March 20, 1:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception, Ithaca chaired by Dr. Anthony Taras.



FATHER GAELENS

Fr. Gaelens Leaving Aquinas Post

BY JOAN M. SMITH

Father Albert R. Gaelens, CSB, principal of Aquinas Institute since 1970 will be leaving his post this June. He will take up residence at St. Thomas High School in Houston, Texas where he will return to the classroom as a Theology teacher. Father's experience includes 11 years in an educational administrative capacity as dean, vice principal and principal; three years as Rector of a Basilian House of Studies for Scholastics; and teaching positions at Assumption University in Windsor, Ontario and at Aquinas in

Succeeding him as principal of Aquinas will be Father John H. Menner, CSB, who previously taught in the

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John Arthur Firpo Ordination Slated

The Book of the Prophet Jeremiah cites the Lord as saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love."

Deacon John Arthur Firpo has taken that text as the theme of the rites when Bishop Joseph L. Hogan ordains him a priest of the diocese on Friday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m., in St. Andrew's Church.

Commenting on the text, Deacon Firpo said, "As priests of Jesus Christ we have the mission to live out the reality that nothing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Jesus. He is a personal God with an everlasting love for His people."

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Firpo of Janice Drive graduated from St. Pius the Tenth School, and King's Preparatory School. In 1972, he graduated magnum cum laude from St. John Fisher College, Becket Hall, with a B.A. in Sociology. He also holds honors in the societies Delta Epsilon Sigma and Pi Gamma Mu.

He received both an M. Div. and an M. Th. from St. Bernard's Seminary. In his fourth year there he was elected president of the deacon class.

He has worked as a CCD teacher at St. Charles Borromeo Church, as an

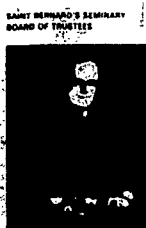


FATHER FIRPO

intern social worker at St. Joseph's Villa and has served as an intern advocate at the Marriage Tribunal. He took his Clinical Pastoral Education at St. John's Hospital in Lowell, Mass.

Father Firpo will celebrate his First Mass at St. Pius the Tenth on Chili Avenue, at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 19.

After each celebration, a reception will follow in the school hall. Father Firpo's First Mass at St. Andrew's will be held on March 27 at 12:15 p.m., followed by first priestly blessing.



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First Annual Report - 1976
SAINT BERNARD'S SEMINARY

Director's message



February, 1977
Dear Friends,
It is with pleasure and pride that we present the first Annual Report to all of you who are interested in the work of Saint Bernard's Seminary. What we do here is the result of many efforts. In this report, we describe the work of the seminary and the many acts of generosity that no human words would ever suffice to give an adequate accounting of or for them. Yet we feel in some ways bound to provide all of you with some idea of support Saint Bernard's with some idea of the way in which this Seminary is fulfilling its mandate today and of the kind of stewardship which the Board and administration is exercising. Hence this first Annual Report. It comes to you after 83 years of the Seminary's life. With your continuing encouragement and support, it will be only the first of many.
Let us together give thanks to God for his generous gifts.
Sincerely,
Joseph P. Brennan
Director

This week's Courier-Journal includes a special pullout, eight-page section, a report from St. Bernard's Seminary on its operations. The report describes the facilities, life on campus and offers brief glimpses in the seminary, past and future. It also includes a financial report. For First Annual Report - 1976 St. Bernard's Seminary, pull out Section B.