

# Diocese Opposes City School Bus Plan

BY JOAN SMITH

On Tuesday March 29 the Rochester City School Board dropped a bombshell by proposing to stop paying for the busing of private and parochial students to schools outside of the city.

Reaction by the Rochester Diocesan Education Department was swift and to the point. Sister Roberta Tierney, superintendent of Catholic Schools held a meeting on Thursday, March 31 which

was attended by Timothy Leahy, deputy superintendent of schools; Sister Mary Smith, president of the Rochester Diocesan Federation of Catholic School Administrators; Brother Aubert Harrigan, president of the Rochester Catholic Diocesan Association of Secondary School Administrators; and Gina Ouwelen, Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents.

They sent a letter explaining the situation and

ways of confronting it to all pastors and principals in Monroe County.

"We need support from all the schools in Monroe County," declared Sister Roberta and she emphasized that the move by the City was limiting the freedom of choice of education for all students not just the 2800 students directly involved. "It's another way that the private and parochial schools have been penalized." She also pointed out that it is the

parents who will be taking the brunt of this penalty by not only paying taxes, tuition costs, but now perhaps an added transportation cost.

A letter was drafted to Dr. John Franco, superintendent of City Schools to acquaint him with the situation and to protest the method used by the board in notifying the Diocese about its plans.

"There was no prior knowledge," said Leahy. It was a matter of walking into

his office on Wednesday morning and reading it in the newspapers.

An open letter to the Rochester City School District Board of Education was also drafted and sent to the newspapers (see this week's Courier-Journal letters to the editor) outlining the Diocese's opposition to the proposal.

The Diocesan Education Department, with the cooperation of the Parents' Federation, high school and elementary school principals are urging city

resident parents (one from each school) to place themselves on the speakers agenda for the open City Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 19. According to Sister Roberta there is a maximum of three minutes to present an opinion on the issue. Permission to do so can be obtained by writing Dr. John Franco, 15 Fitzhugh St., and then notifying the Diocesan Office.

Sister had talked with  
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## Father Frank Lioi To Be New Rector At St. Bernard's

Father Frank E. Lioi has been named rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, it has been announced by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

In becoming the sixth rector of the diocesan seminary, Father Lioi will be replacing Father Joseph P. Brennan who has been rector since 1966 and who announced plans to retire from the post last December. Father Lioi's appointment becomes effective June 1.

Father Lioi has been on the seminary faculty serving as assistant professor of liturgical study and director of liturgy and music. He also is Catholic chaplain at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music and is chairman of the

diocesan Music Commission.

He was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Fulton Sheen in 1967 after completing his philosophical and theological studies at St. Bernard's. His first assignment was at St. John the Evangelist in Greece where he served until 1972. He was assigned as associate pastor at the Church of the Annunciation from 1972 to 1974. Upon further study, he was awarded a Master of Divinity from St. Bernard's in 1974. That same year he began his liturgical studies at Notre Dame and subsequently received an MA in Liturgical Studies from Catholic University in 1975.

Bishop Hogan appointed



FATHER LIOI

him to the faculty at St. Bernard's in 1975. The new rector also is an adviser to the U.S. Bishops Committee on Liturgy.

His brother, Father Philip J. Lioi is also a diocesan priest and is chaplain at Ithaca College. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Lioi of Rochester.

Father Brennan will continue on the seminary faculty where he is professor of Old Testament and Hebrew.

## St. Joseph's Asks

### 'Save Our OB Unit'

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Facing possible closure of the obstetrical unit, St. Joseph's Hospital's Board of Directors has affirmed its conviction that the unit should remain open, and has requested a waiver of sanctions against the hospital so that it can continue to offer obstetrical services.

"The Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Hospital remains firmly committed to the continuance of its obstetrical services," states an informational brochure to be released soon; "St. Joseph's Hospital stands as a witness to the dignity and rights of each individual and to the sacredness of human life at every stage of its existence, from conception... until death."

"As a Catholic health facility, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, it is the only hospital in its service area that offers the alternative of a religious-sponsored obstetrical unit to patients and the right to give birth in a hospital that doesn't perform elective abortions," the statement continues.

St. Joseph's is seeking public assistance in the effort, asking that letters be written to the officials involved, expressing the need for the service's continuance.

"If St. Joseph's Hospital is to continue to maintain a strong pro-life philosophy, especially as it relates to its obstetrical service, it is essential that the hospital receives the support of our Catholic people," Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, emphasized in a letter sent to local clergy; "we need to experience the visible support of our Catholic lay community if we are to continue our obstetrical service."

The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) is currently studying the delivery of obstetrical services in the Southern Tier, with the expressed intention of consolidating units as a cost saving measure. Its executive committee report of Nov. 23, 1976, noted that in Chemung County, "at the moment, obstetrical services are delivered by both St. Joseph's and Arnot Ogden hospitals—one of the two should eliminate its service and there should be a consolidation at the remaining site."

On Feb. 3, the plan was endorsed by the state Review and Planning Council. The FLHSA is scheduled to recommend specific units for closing by June 30, 1977. After that

date, significant financial penalties are scheduled to be applied to hospitals not maintaining 75 per cent minimum occupancy.

Although no statement has been issued concerning which unit will be recommended for closing, Arnot Ogden, which also has a neo-natology unit that is

used by the region, had 1,391 births in 1976, compared to 286 at St. Joseph's. Sr. Martha noted that it is St. Joseph's unit that will probably be asked to close.

In a letter to Robert P. Whalen, MD, state health commissioner dated March 15, St. Joseph's Board of

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## Back Hospital, Bishop Urges

My Dear People,

During March 1977, the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency announced plans to consolidate obstetrical services in the area of the Diocese of Rochester. These plans, which are based on various factors, including the number of deliveries, might mean the closure of the only Catholic-sponsored obstetrical unit that serves Chemung County and the surrounding area.

The Board of Directors of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, N.Y. remains firmly committed to the continuance of its obstetrical services. As a Catholic health facility, operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Joseph's Hospital stands as a witness to the dignity and rights of each individual and to the sacredness of human life at every stage of its existence, from conception until death.

St. Joseph's Hospital has provided quality obstetrical services since its establishment in 1908. It is the only hospital in its service area that offers the alternative of a religious-sponsored obstetrical unit and the right to give birth in a hospital that does not perform elective abortions. It is important that this fundamental, constitutional, right of freedom of choice is preserved.

The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency intends to identify the obstetrical units in the region to be closed by June 30, 1977. If St. Joseph's Hospital is to continue to maintain a strong pro-life philosophy in the area of obstetrics it is essential that the hospital receives your support. Therefore I urge you to send letters of support for the continuation of obstetrical services at St. Joseph's Hospital to:

Gov. Hugh Carey  
State Capitol  
Albany, N. Y. 12224

Robert P. Whalen, MD  
Commissioner  
New York State Dept. of Health  
Albany, N.Y. 12237

Mr. Anthony Mott  
Executive Director  
Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency  
360 East Ave.  
Rochester, N. Y. 14604

With every best wish I remain,  
Devotedly yours in Christ,

## Four Appointments; Two Pastors Named

Four priests of the diocese were reassigned this week, two of them advancing to pastorates.

Father Eugene Weis was named pastor of St. John's, Newark Valley, and St. Francis, Catatunk. He is due on Easter Monday to take the place of Father Robert J. Donovan, who recently was reassigned to St. Dominic's, Shortsville.

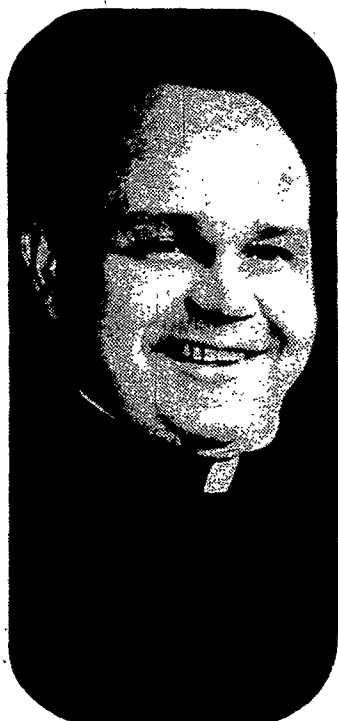
Father Dennis Shaw, who is completing his internship, will go May 9 to St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester, to release Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, who has resigned the pastorate.

Father Terence Fleming, who has been chaplain to the sisters and students at Mercy High School for the past four years, has been appointed to the Campus Ministry at SUC Brockport, and Father Thomas Valenti, assistant pastor in internship at Holy Apostles, will

continue his internship at Blessed Sacrament.

Father Weis, 41, currently is associate pastor at St. John's, Greece. He is a Rochesterian, from Blessed Sacrament parish. He studied for the priesthood in the diocesan seminaries and was ordained June 2, 1962. His first assignment was at Mother of Sorrows in Greece, where he quickly became chaplain to the town fire department. He has served at Holy Apostles and St. Salome's.

Father Shaw, from Good Counsel parish, was ordained March 22, 1974, at St. Andrew's, where he had been serving as deacon. Since then, he has been a priest intern at Blessed Sacrament. He is a graduate of St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's Seminary, and worked during his seminary days as a religion teacher at St. Rose, Lima, and Holy Cross, Rochester.



FATHER WEIS



FATHER SHAW

## Diocesan Appointments



Father Eugene Weis to pastor, St. John's, Newark Valley, and St. Francis, Catatunk, from associate pastor, St. John's, Greece.

Father Dennis Shaw to pastor, St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester, from assistant pastor in internship at Blessed Sacrament, Rochester.

Father Thomas Valenti to assistant pastor in internship at Blessed Sacrament from same position at Holy Apostles, Rochester.

Father Terence Fleming to Campus Ministry, SUC Brockport, from the Mercy School chaplaincy.