

Catholic Education: A Community Involvement

**Liturgy
Opens
Mercy
Year**

**By Sister Roberta Tierney
Superintendent of
Diocesan Schools**

Education is a life time process. Daily we are enriched through experiences which add to our understanding and appreciation of the people and world around us. Many of the greatest educational experiences take place during the early years of life. Even before formal education begins each one of us has had far reaching experiences that influence and affect our learning and decisions.

Parents are the primary educators of their children and bear the responsibility for the formation of attitudes and values that are life-long. The partnership shared by home and school merely builds upon the foundation fostered through family life.

In light of this fact, we appreciate the confidence that the parents of over 30,000 students demonstrate by sending their children to Catholic Schools in the diocese of Rochester! One of our major goals is to increase the involvement of parents in the decision making and leadership role of Catholic education throughout our diocese. We believe that the increase of parental and adult involvement in the work of parish education Committees and School Boards is evidence of the thrust toward this shared responsibility. The work of the Rochester Chapter of the New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents also illustrates the cooperation and leadership of parents to help obtain and maintain strong educational programs.

Each year programs and

course offerings within the schools are reviewed and evaluated in light of the needs of the students. As Catholic Schools our primary concern is toward the programs developed to offer strong growth in the teachings of Gospel belief. During the past year a course of studies for the teaching of Religion in the Junior High grades has been developed through the cooperative efforts of the Departments of Religious Education and General Education. Both departments will sponsor in-service workshops to assist the teachers in implementing this program.

Other programs that will be introduced include a revision in the curricula for elementary science and social studies.

These revisions are the result of the efforts of committees of teachers in our system who have researched and developed the courses of study over a period of two years.

We are also participating in the implementation of a Kindergarten program which has been designed by a committee of educators from four dioceses in New York State. This program will be monitored by a interdiocesan committee and will be strengthened by the collective experience of teachers in many areas of the state.

We believe that Catholic Schools must play a leadership role in building a just society. Therefore, we have established an "Education for Justice Task Force" which has been active during the past year. The task force has planned an educational program for administrators and teachers through the annual Teachers' Conference Day

and Principals' Workshop. In addition to this in-service training several schools will pilot materials for this program with the support and participation of parish staffs.

The recent publication from the Vatican Congregation on Education is encouraging to those who believe in Catholic School Education. Facts and figures cause us to realize that the schools continue at the sacrifice of many people and therefore, must strive to be witnesses to the Gospel message. Bishop Hogan has challenged us as a diocese to continue to offer Catholic Education for the poor. We have begun to move toward that direction through the implementation

of the tuition subsidy programs for secondary schools and for elementary schools in the city of Rochester. Further implementation of some of the recommendations from the Urban Catholic Schools Ministry Task Force report will strengthen this need.

The school year 1977-78 will begin in a short while. Much time and effort has been spent in developing plans and programs at diocesan and local levels. The success of the year depends upon the cooperation and support of all of us — teachers, parents, students, administrators and all believers in the value of a freedom of choice in education. May we work

together with an understanding and appreciation that the "product" we produce is strength for the Church of tomorrow!

New School Leaders

The diocesan Education Department has announced administrative changes in 14 elementary schools and two high schools.

The principals who will be assuming new positions are Father John Menner CSB, Aquinas Institute; Brother Thomas Feerick CFC, Bishop Kearney High School; Sister Ann-Cullen RSM, Annunciation; Sister Eileen Daly SSJ, Corpus Christi; Sister Carole Proia SSJ, Holy Rosary; Sister Virginia Steinwachs SSJ, Mother of Sorrows; Sister Diane Dennie SSJ, St. Lawrence; Sister Janice Nadeau SSND, St. Margaret Mary; Sister Francella Quinn SSJ, St. Pius Tenth; Sister M. Peter OSBM, St. Peter and Paul, Auburn; Sister Sheila Connor SSJ, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; Sister Deanna Gears SSJ, St. Mary's Canandaigua; Sister Ann Miller RSM, Corning Catholic Schools North and South; Sister Joseph Mary Switzer RSM, Good Shepherd, Henrietta; Sister Dorothy Meisenzahl SSJ, St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; Sister Marie Stanislaus Chwalek SSJ, St. Joseph's, Wayland.

Our Lady of Mercy High School will open the 1977-78 school year with an enrollment of 765 students. Freshman Orientation will be on Sept. 6 with the entire student body assembling on Sept. 7. There will be a school Liturgy with a Eucharistic celebration on Sept. 8.

New to Mercy's faculty are Father Vincent Panepinto who will take up the duties of chaplain; Sisters Anne Curtis and Ruth Basshaus in Theology; Sister Karen Berl in Math; Miss Mary Gelfell in English; Sister Lisette O'Brien in Art; Mrs. Carol Herans in the Bookkeeper's office.

Mercy is offering a 'new look' in the cafeteria where Sister Nancy O'Brien will manage a federally funded lunch program which will offer reduced lunch prices while maintaining a wide variety of menu offerings.

The seven college credit program offerings will be expanded to include a course in Biology. The Modern Language Department is introducing an additional course on the French 4 level. Additions in the Music Department will be offerings in Recorder and Music from American Theatre. Business Writing and Money Management courses have been added by the Business Department.

For those Mercians on the soccer team, practice begins on Wednesday, Aug. 24. A faculty Conference Day is scheduled for Sept. 9 with an Administration Board meeting on Sept. 12. A Student Council dance will be held on Sept. 16 and the Freshman Family Picnic on Sept. 18.

McQuaid Opens To 760 Students

McQuaid Jesuit High School looks forward to the arrival next month of 210 freshmen and 50 new eighth graders. Total enrollment will be the same as in each of the past five years, 760 students.

A new elective in Senior Theology, a trimester course in how to pray, turned out to be the most popular choice of next year's seniors, with 90 students enrolling in the elective.

The school is also looking forward to the return of two veteran faculty members and the arrival of four new teachers. Among the veterans, Father William O'Malley who has been spending the summer in hiding to write his seventh book, on the importance of belonging to an organized church. Fr. William Frankhauser will have much

to relate when he returns from his summer working for Mother Teresa in India.

Joining the faculty will be two new Jesuits and two new lay teachers. Father Robert C. Collins is returning from studies in West Germany to teach German and English while Father Vincent McDonough is back from seminary teaching in Nigeria and will teach Physics and Math IV. Also Father Kevin O'Brien will join the Jesuit community as administrator while Brother George Belgarde assumes the responsibility for school maintenance.

New lay teachers include a recent graduate of LeMoyne College, Thomas Schepp, who will teach sophomore Social Studies and a McQuaid alumnus, Joseph Marchese who will teach freshman Science.

**ABUCDEFGHIJKLMNOP
QRSTUVWXYZ 1234567**

**Spend a few
evenings out
with these
characters.**

They can teach you to understand, think, create, compete and grow—for more rewarding careers in business, engineering, education, science, health care, community service, or personal development.

Plan now to break the routine of your days by spending a few bright evenings studying your choice of 237 courses.

Registration can be done easily by phoning 275-2568. Or you can register at Eastview, Greece Town, or Midtown Malls on August 24 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; or August 27 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Or come to the U of R Wilson Commons August 29 from 3 to 8 p.m., or between 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on September 7 or 8.



University College
of Liberal and Applied Studies
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York 14627