

Catholic Schools Mass

The Catholic Diocese of Rochester will conclude its celebration of Catholic Schools Week with a Mass concelebrated by Bishops Joseph L. Hogan, Dennis W. Hickey, and John E. McCafferty at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sunday, Feb. 5, 2:30 p.m. Assisting will be Fathers Leon Hogenkamp, principal of McQuaid and John Menner, principal of Aquinas. Each of the 77 Diocesan elementary schools and nine high schools will be represented by parents, students, teachers and administrators.

Bishop Hogan will deliver the homily. Sister Marie Margaret Brydges will direct a choir of students from many diocesan schools. The Mass will be followed by a reception in the rectory basement, jointly sponsored by the Rochester Catholic Parents Federation and the Diocesan Schools Office, for the community including Public School District superintendents, City Council, County Legislature members, and members of the school board, and other community leaders.

St. James Celebrates Schools Week

Waverly—St. James School is conducting a Parent's Night program tonight, Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. as part of its commemoration of Catholic Schools Week. The featured speaker will be Timothy Leahy, diocesan deputy superintendent of schools. Recently named to become superintendent, Leahy will speak on current trends in Catholic education; an opportunity for questions, and refreshments will follow.

On Thursday evening, the school is sponsoring ice skating at Muldoon Park, beginning at 6 p.m. and followed by refreshments in the school at 7:30 p.m.

During the week, posters marking Catholic Schools Week done by the students will be on display in the Waverly Free Library.

McQuaid Festival

The Parents' Club of McQuaid Jesuit High School is sponsoring an Italian Carnival, Saturday, Feb. 4. The event will feature Italian foods, entertainment and music by the Strolling Troubadors. Special guest will be Attilio Iacelli, originator and announcer of the Sunday Italian Hour on WSAW radio.

Planning committee for the Carnival included Mr. and Mrs. Attilio Iacelli, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baglio and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Solazzo. For information and reservations call Mrs. Raymond Naber, 244-6114.

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O'Hair Rumor Still Thrives... And It's Still Wrong

Allentown, Pa. (RNS) — The unfounded rumor that atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair is out to drive religion off the airwaves is alive and well despite many attempts to scotch it.

Since October 1974, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has received more than 7.5 million letters from people who are worried that Ms. O'Hair has mounted a campaign to prevent religion from reaching "many elderly people and shut-ins as well as those recuperating from illness."

Ms. O'Hair is not a party to any such petition. That statement has been printed many times by newspapers and news services. The rumor still thrives.

There was once a petition which asked the FCC to "freeze" new licenses for television and FM radio channels, which are reserved for educational purposes.

The petitioners, Jeremy D. Lansman and Lorenzo W. Milam of Los Catos, Calif., also asked the FCC to determine whether religious broadcasters already licensed "are living up to the Fairness Doctrine in presentation of matters of controversial importance, and whether these groups are presenting truly educational programming" on radio bands restricted for educational use.

Their petition was rejected by the FCC in August 1975 in a unanimous decision by the commissioners.

Dr. Everett C. Parker, director of the Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ, says his office still receives many requests for information about the issue. "There's been a new round (of the rumors) started," he said.

Ben Armstrong, executive secretary for National Religious Broadcasters, Inc., says, "We think there's some one out there that's sending these petitions to local churches." He adds that there's "no way of tracing it."

As for the reason for perpetuating such an unsubstantiated rumor, Armstrong speculates some one may "be trying to embarrass the religious broadcasters or the FCC."

Meanwhile back at the

FCC in Washington, Carroll White of the Complaints and Compliance Department says 7,000 letters come in every day to protest Ms.

O'Hair's non-existent campaign. "Everyone's writing his Congressman about this and we're getting all the letters," he said.

South Africa Condemned By Amnesty International

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Amnesty International, coincidental with the release of a 108-page report, has launched a worldwide campaign for the release of "prisoners of conscience, repeal of discriminatory and repressive legislation, and the end to torture in South Africa."

Martin Ennals, secretary general of the London-based nonpartisan, nonsectarian human rights organization, said that for the "first time, an Amnesty International report on political imprisonment does not end with specific recommendations for the offending government."

The reason, he said, is that AI "believes that no reforms in the present structure will be sufficiently far-reaching to remove the cause of political imprisonment unless the whole

system of apartheid is dismantled. It is hoped that this report will generate international pressure to achieve this end."

He described as "vindictive and uncompromising" the conditions under which convicted political prisoners in South Africa are held. At least 38 political prisoners, including the African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, are imprisoned for life. These prisoners are denied even those rights given to criminal prisoners. They can receive neither remission nor parole. They are subject to complete news bans, forbidden to read newspapers or listen to the radio.

He said the AI report on "Political Imprisonment in South Africa" presents details of a "system built upon detention without

trial, maltreatment of convicted political prisoners, banning and banishment, the widespread and systematic use of torture, and frequent judicial and extra-judicial killing by the government."

Asked why South Africa was being singled out when there are other governments in the world with records of repression equal to or surpassing that of South Africa (such as Communist-ruled nations), Ennals replied that the "system in South Africa is based consciously on a small group of people maintaining power and repressing the vast majority of the people of that country."

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