

### Sr. Roberta Tierney:

## Catholic Schools Should Be Unique

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The newly named director of the Education Division, Sister Roberta Tierney, sees promoting unity among the Church's educational efforts as a major part of her new job, she told a Catholic Schools Week audience here Feb. 1.

Speaking to more than 400 persons in St. Mary's auditorium, Sister Roberta said that all segments of the Church's educational effort should unite in recognition of their common goals.

Previously superintendent of the diocese's Catholic schools, she noted that her support of Catholic schools will not lessen with the start of her new responsibilities.

She noted that Christ told the Apostles to "go and teach all nations," which is the purpose of the Church's education programs. She emphasized that the challenge wasn't simple for the Apostles, for the pioneers of Catholic schools in the United States, or today.

The fact that the first two American-born saints were pioneers in American Catholic schools is especially significant, she said. People have "lost sight" of the struggle of early Catholics in the United States, she noted; the building of schools was a

"very great struggle" for Catholics of the time, she said.

For many years the goal had been to have every Catholic child in a Catholic school, Sister Roberta said, but that goal was never reached. In the early 1960s, she said, people began to ask questions concerning the schools, and they "found that the system was not perfect."

The years of analysis and a period when Catholic schools tried to be like public schools has given way to an effort to "be a very unique Catholic school system," she explained. If the Catholic schools are merely copies of public schools, she noted, there is no reason for them to continue.

The nation's bishops pastoral "To Teach as Jesus Did" gave Catholic school direction, she noted, setting three goals, challenging them to convey the message, to build community, and to provide service.

She also described Father Andrew Greeley's research concerning Catholic schools, relating his recommendation that Catholics not "attack the one strong thing you have," Catholic schools. Father Greeley reported that Catholic school graduates are more hopeful, optimistic and are more loyal to the

Church, Sister Roberta reported. He also said that there is more money available to support Catholic schools, she noted.

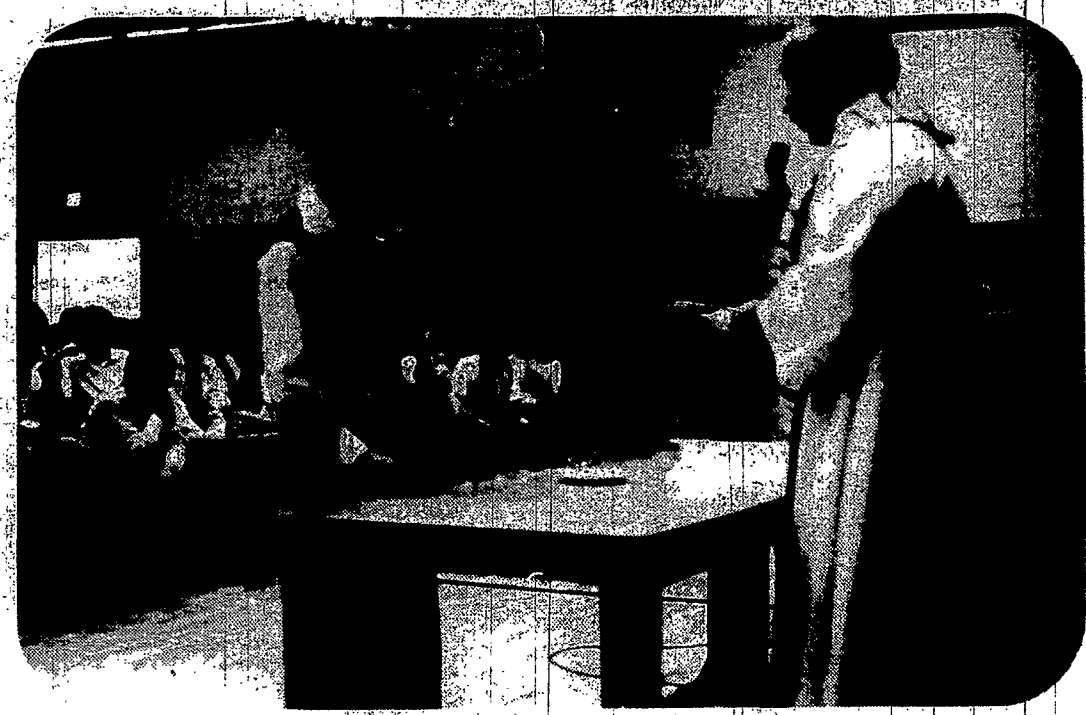
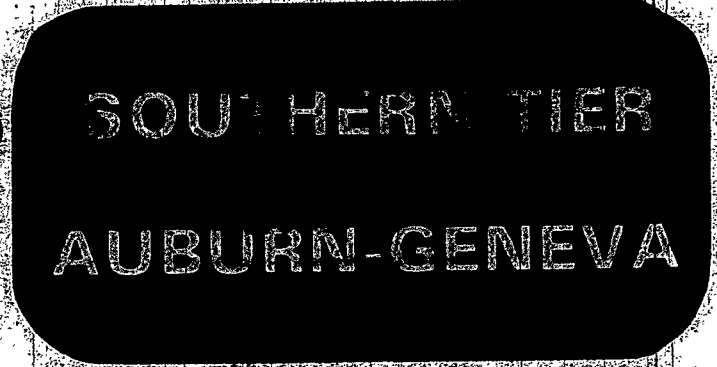
Those in Catholic education need to sell their efforts better, Sister Roberta noted, adding that perhaps they have been "too modest for too long" concerning the quality of Catholic education.

Sister Roberta also called for persons to write their federal legislators in support of the Packwood-Moynihan bill that would give parents of private school students a tax benefit. She noted that of the major free countries in the world, the United States is the only one that doesn't fund religious schools in some way.

Good signs in the Rochester diocese for education include the fact that Bishop Hogan "definitely supports Catholic schools," Sister Roberta said, as well as the diocesan secondary tuition subsidy program, the elementary tuition subsidy in the city of Rochester, the growth of involvement of parents in the schools, and the increase in lay leadership. She noted that succeeding her as superintendent of schools is Timothy Leahy, a layman.

Another positive factor, she said, is growing cooperation between

schools and the religious programs for students attending public schools. "I believe that we are past the period of competition between the two programs, she said.



### Everyone Grows

Photo by Martin Toombs

Symbolizing the "everyone grows" schools week theme at St. Patrick's Junior High in Elmira, Debbie DiNardo plants a seed during a prayer service conducted by Father Neil Miller on growth.

## Lenten Speakers Set by St. Patrick's

Corning — St. Patrick's is sponsoring a Lenten speakers program on five Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the school library.

On Feb. 16, Father Daniel Tormey, chaplain at the Elmira Reception Center, will speak on "We Are Our Brother's Keeper."

Father Stephen Kraus, associate pastor of St. Mary's, Corning, will discuss "Whatever Became of Sin?" on Feb. 23.

Father David Mura, associate pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen, will speak on "Death—From Life to Life" on March 2.

"Prayer—Keys to the

Kingdom" will be the topic of Sister Barbara of St. Mary's House of Prayer, Corning, on March 9.

Mr. Harold W. Bruen, associate pastor of First United Methodist Church, Corning, will speak on "Making Scripture Part of Our Lives" on March 16.

### LENTEN RENEWAL

Canandaigua — The Lenten Renewal Series sponsored by the education committee of St. Mary's Church continues tomorrow night and on the remaining Thursdays of Lent. Meetings begin at 7:30 in the multipurpose room of the parish school.

## Fr. Jankowiak To Be CIM Lecturer

Elmira — Father Joseph Jankowiak, St. Bernard's Seminary professor, will give a talk titled "Toward an Ethic of Personal Responsibility" at the final Christian Institute of Man lecture Monday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. at Park Church.

Father Jankowiak, a professor of moral theology at St. Bernard's, is a member of the diocesan Medical-Moral Committee, the Pastoral Care of the Sick and Dying Committee, and of the diocesan Association of Catholic Chaplains. In June 1977, he also was elected to the Catholic Theological Society.

## Ecumenical Series Set in Canisteo

Canisteo — An ecumenical effort to determine the needs of people living in the village and the surrounding area as well as to make constructive suggestions for their solution is now being planned by the Canisteo Council of Churches.

"Life Needs Seminars," a series of five presentations

will begin at 8 p.m. each Wednesday evening of Lent starting Feb. 15.

The presentations are: Pre-Marriage and Divorce, Feb. 15, at St. Joachim's Parish Center, Dealing with Financial Problems, Feb. 22 at Somers Hall, Single Adults, March 1 at the Wesleyan Church, Aging

and Retirement, March 8 at the United Methodist Church and Death and Grief, March 15 at the Baptist Church.

The Council of Churches hopes these seminars will give them a better idea of the social needs of people in the area.

## Nursing School Receives \$27,000

Elmira — A grant of \$27,121.27 from the Helene Fuld Health Trust to St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing has been announced by Marine Midland Bank, fund trustee.

Sister Remigia McHenry, school director, reports that

"the grant will be used to provide a locked mail handling system, additional audio-visual equipment and software, clinical models and simulators, gymnasium equipment, library books and a security system for the benefit of student nurses enrolled in the school."

This most recent announcement marks the fourth gift to the School of Nursing since it became a member of the chain of nursing schools benefiting from the Helene Fuld Trust.

Nearly \$135,000 has been provided by the trust for projects related to the health, welfare and education of student nurses. The grants partially funded the school's Helene Fuld Learning Resource Center, and paid for the paddle tennis court adjacent to the school.

## Survey Begun At St. Patrick's

Seneca Falls — St. Patrick's Parish has begun a special three-part program aimed at identifying the "parish's basic religious thoughts and concerns in the areas of prayer, church, morality and beliefs." The program, called GIFT (Growth in Faith Together) will continue through Lent.

According to Claude E. Lester, religious education coordinator for the parish, a survey has been sent out asking individual parishioners to list the areas they feel need the most attention.

When the results of the survey have been returned reflection groups will be formed to further identify

and discuss these areas. These groups will form ideas for future programs to support and develop the personal growth of the faith community, Lester said.

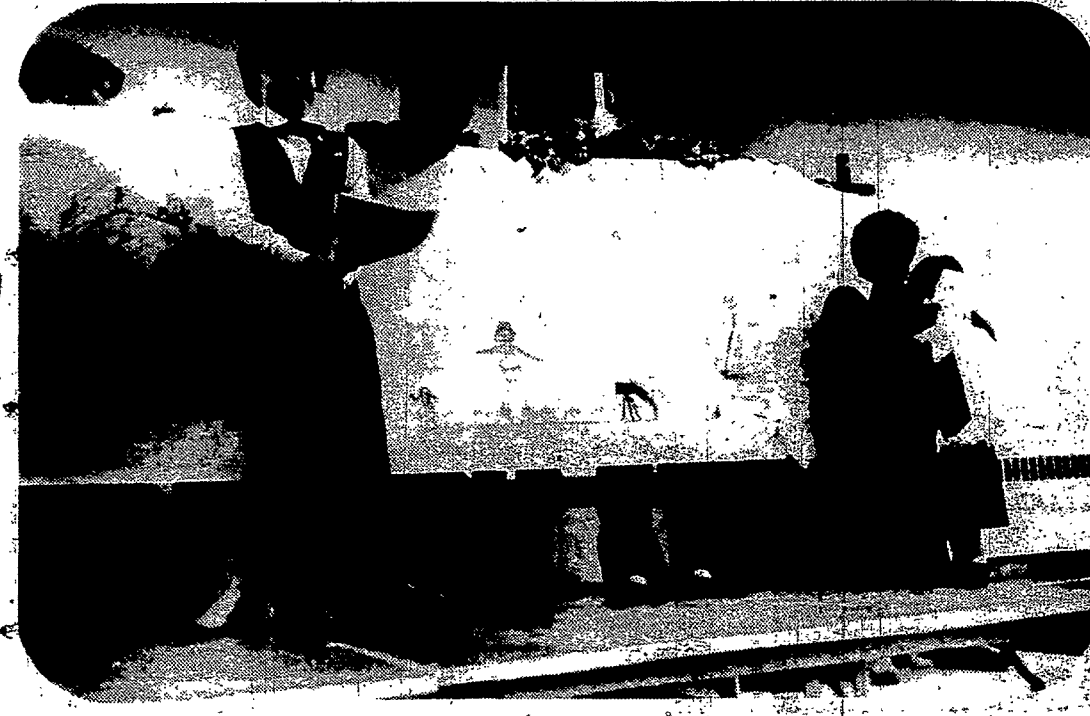
Phase three will formulate programs that the parish hopes will fulfill the needs of its parishioners.

### CARD PARTY

Scipio Center — The George Washington Card Party, major annual money-raiser put on by the Rosary Society of St. Bernard's Church, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at St. Isaac Jogues Church hall in Fleming.

### CORRECTION

In last week's story on the Seneca Falls Teachers Meeting on Divorced and Separated Catholics there were two errors. The "prominent American Catholic" mentioned was not a Catholic. In Mark (10) the word "not" was inadvertently dropped. The sentence should have read, "Mark portrays Jesus not allowing divorce and remarriage."



### History Theme

Photo by Martin Toombs

Third graders at St. Patrick's in Owego make a stage presentation on blacks in America as part of the school week's program. Many parents attended.

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