

**Sister Named
Highland Hospital
Chaplain . . . 10**



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Busing End Adds to School Costs

By JOAN M. SMITH

This Fall, Rochester families whose children attend private or parochial schools outside the city limits will be footing another expense — transportation fares.

The Rochester School Board of Education, in trimming \$6 million from its educational budget on July 10, eliminated busing funds for these students by a 5-2 vote. The threat of this particular cutback has been seesawing back and forth. In 1977, it was proposed but because of municipal overburden fund payments by the state the problem was resolved

and the funds reinstated. This year, however, backlash from the Waldert Decision (state court ruling that Rochester had been collecting taxes illegally) resulted in the \$6 million educational cuts with another possible 1.3 million cut waiting in the wings. Other costs eliminated from the budget: Early Childhood Guided Observation programs, salary increases and jobs.

The Rochester Diocesan Department of Education reacted swiftly to the board's decision, sending telegrams to Gov. Hugh Carey, legislators and educational committees. Their primary object — to

secure support in moving the Sen. Fred Eckert (R) Assemblyman Gary Proud (D) bill out of committee. Focus is on this legislation because it proposes mandating cities (with population less than a million) to transport students to private and parochial schools. The suburban districts already operate under such a mandate.

Though the diocesan office was able to act, the blow came at a bad time for the schools involved. Brother John Walderman, vice principal at Bishop Kearney said, "It puts us at a disadvantage," explaining that the lines of communication between

school administration and parents are difficult due to summer recess. According to Brother, 30 per cent of BK's 1900 students will be affected by the board's decision.

Sister Anne Guerin, St. Agnes principal, said that 55 per cent of their students come from the city and according to McQuaid sources — 200 of the school's enrollment come from inside the city limits.

Another indication of the timing disadvantage came from Sister Jacqueline Reichart, vice principal of Our Lady of Mercy, who observed the school hadn't received any

calls from parents wondering about the situation. Sister noted that 35 per cent of Mercy's students are from the city. Though many of them are within walking distance (Mercy is just outside the city line) there will be families affected by the additional transportation costs.

(At present, the Regional Transit fare of \$.50 a trip will cost students \$1 per day — approximate number of session days for the 1978-79 school year is 182.)

In further discussing the fund cut, Sister declared the amount was so small in relation to the financial crisis.

This is the argument that Timothy Leahy, superintendent of diocesan schools, keeps chipping away at; the insignificant amount in light of the fact that in reality the city only pays 10 per cent of the total cost.

The initial cost has been given at \$428,515, however, after state reimbursement the final cost, approximately \$42,000. And this is the point that has been questioned by those concerned throughout the busing dilemma — Why cut a service when 90 per cent of that service's cost is reimbursed?

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Fresh Air Kids

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Curry welcome Nancy Fullerton, center, into their family. Nancy is one of more than 380 children from New York City low-income families who arrived in Rochester Wednesday, July 12 as part of the Fresh Air Fund's program to bring inner city children here for an upstate visit.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Abortion 'Tip of Iceberg'

Woman Protestant Heads National Right to Life

St. Louis (RNS) — Carolyn F. Gerster of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a woman, the mother of five children, a physician specializing in cardiology, and a Protestant — all qualities she says will help her as president of the National Right to Life Committee.

Dr. Gerster was elected president of the anti-abortion organization during the NRLC's annual convention here. She succeeds Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson.

Dr. Gerster described the NRLC as "non-sectarian, non-partisan and certainly non-profit" with 11 million

members from 1,200 chapters in 50 states and Guam.

Likening the pro-life movement to the abolition struggle, Dr. Gerster said, "There are still moral absolutes. Slavery was wrong regardless of the considerable economic advantages; abortion is wrong regardless of the socio-economic problems it seems to solve."

Adjectives applied to abortionists are "disturbingly familiar" to those used against pro-lifers, she said, such as "strident, irresponsible, radical, self-righteous, uncompromising and fanatical."

She told reporters at a press

conference that "life is not a privilege reserved for the strong. Life is not a favor bestowed by Supreme Court justices. Life is an inalienable right of every person, no matter how young, how old, how handicapped, how poor."

"Abortion is just the tip of the iceberg," she said, "we are equally involved regarding euthanasia and human experimentation, without informed consent, not done for the benefit of the individual."

"Just as there is no such thing as a little more equal," she continued, "there is no such thing as a little bit human."

"Just as no nation can survive half slave and half free, no nation can survive whose foundations are stained by the blood of its children."

Dr. Gerster rejects the notion that the right to life movement is religious. "I was an agnostic for five years and my views were the same during that period."

"I took a pagan oath to a pagan god — Hippocrates oath. That oath was written by a man who did not have the benefit of the Judeo-Christian ethic and who has shaped medical ethics since his time" 2,500 years ago.

She said that she hopes that her election will "demonstrate to the nation that this is not the, conservative, male, Roman Catholic organization that our enemies try to depict."

Modern Teaching

By JOAN M. SMITH

What wouldn't Aristotle and Galileo have given for audio-visuals to present their philosophies and theories? They no doubt would have made good use of such a facility as the Rochester Diocesan Media Development Center (1150 Buffalo Rd.) which supplies the needs of parish religious educators.

Until diocesan restructuring, the center (unaffiliated with any department) had been kept operating by one man, Joseph Weber.

"He's done a superb job in keeping the center available," declared Daniel McNamara, consultant for Religious

Education Programs. According to him, Weber seeing the value of such a resource center was determined to keep it alive and did so on subscription funds.

The center is now under the Office of Religious Education and as such is diocesan funded. According to Father Lewis Brown, director of Religious Education, since its new status the center has expanded by \$10,000 worth of high caliber educational material.

"The investment is certainly justified," declared Father. He said the center expects to service, through its mail order delivery, 90 per cent of the parishes with

multi-media instructional materials. The programs will facilitate all phases of religious education; CCD, family, adult, special and classroom education. There are also programs geared for the unchurched, as well as non-Catholic and minority participants.

McNamara's primary duties will be to study the needs of the parishes, coordinate their educational requests, package film for mailing and oversee that the center's vast mail order delivery system runs smoothly. Right now, he is formulating an inventory catalog for better utilization of the library.



Father Brown checks over and explains a new educational film to Sister Jane Geiger, MSHS, who will be a main user of the Media Center in her capacity as Consultant for Adult and Family Education.

The parishes who subscribe to the center's resources (\$50 a year) have unlimited use of the center. As an offshoot of the center's main function there has evolved what Father

Brown describes as "interparish cooperation." More and more parishes are splitting the subscription tab and

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