

Pastoral Perspective

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Education... A Cooperative Venture

In our day-to-day life we have structured ourselves into several different models for measuring and passing time. We have the calendar year; the fiscal year and the academic year — all of these overlap and intertwine to keep us ever conscious of the complex world in which we live and of which we are a part. Certainly structures are necessary to enable us to perform efficiently and to use our gifts to move together toward our true goals. However, we must not become servants of structure and see the various aspects of our lives as compartments that are not related.

For example, the academic year is not something that begins on September 1 and ends on June 30 — that is the meaning behind the academic year cannot be tied into calendar dates and take a recess for two months. The academic year refers to formal educational experiences, but those experiences are not isolated from the process of education.

Education is a life-long process of developing our full personhood to an understanding and use of the gifts and knowledge we have to better serve God and serve our neighbor. There is not a separate section in life for what we learn and what we do. They are inter-related and influence both thoughts with actions.

Because of this total process, when we speak of education, we speak first to parents. Their influence as teachers of their children is unique and permanent. The education that takes place within the home and family sets the pattern and attitudes that will be further nurtured in the formal academic setting. We look to our families to be centers for developing an atmosphere of trust and love; an atmosphere in which

sacraments, celebration and prayer have an integral part and are not relegated to something that happens once a week in a building far from home.

Once a child has been registered in a formal program, his education at home is not completed. The values practiced within the home continue to be lessons learned and affect attitudes formed. The family has a responsibility to promote a strong and active concern for what is happening within our society and to contribute to the formation of a Just Society in which the rights of all are preserved.

In selecting an educational institution of their choice, parents are reminded that their active involvement and interest in the programs of the school are essential. Today, more than ever, the voice of Catholic parents of children in public schools must be heard. Parents must become involved in the plans and programs of the local school boards and professional educators.

Likewise, parents who select Catholic School Education cannot sit back and expect that the teachers will be able to continue the education of their children alone. Parental involvement, support and influence is essential to this total process to develop a unified vision.

I strongly urge our teachers and administrators in Catholic Schools throughout the diocese to continue to develop and implement ways in which this spirit of cooperation and unity between home and school can be strengthened. In the statement by the Catholic Bishops of the United States, "Teach Them," we are reminded:

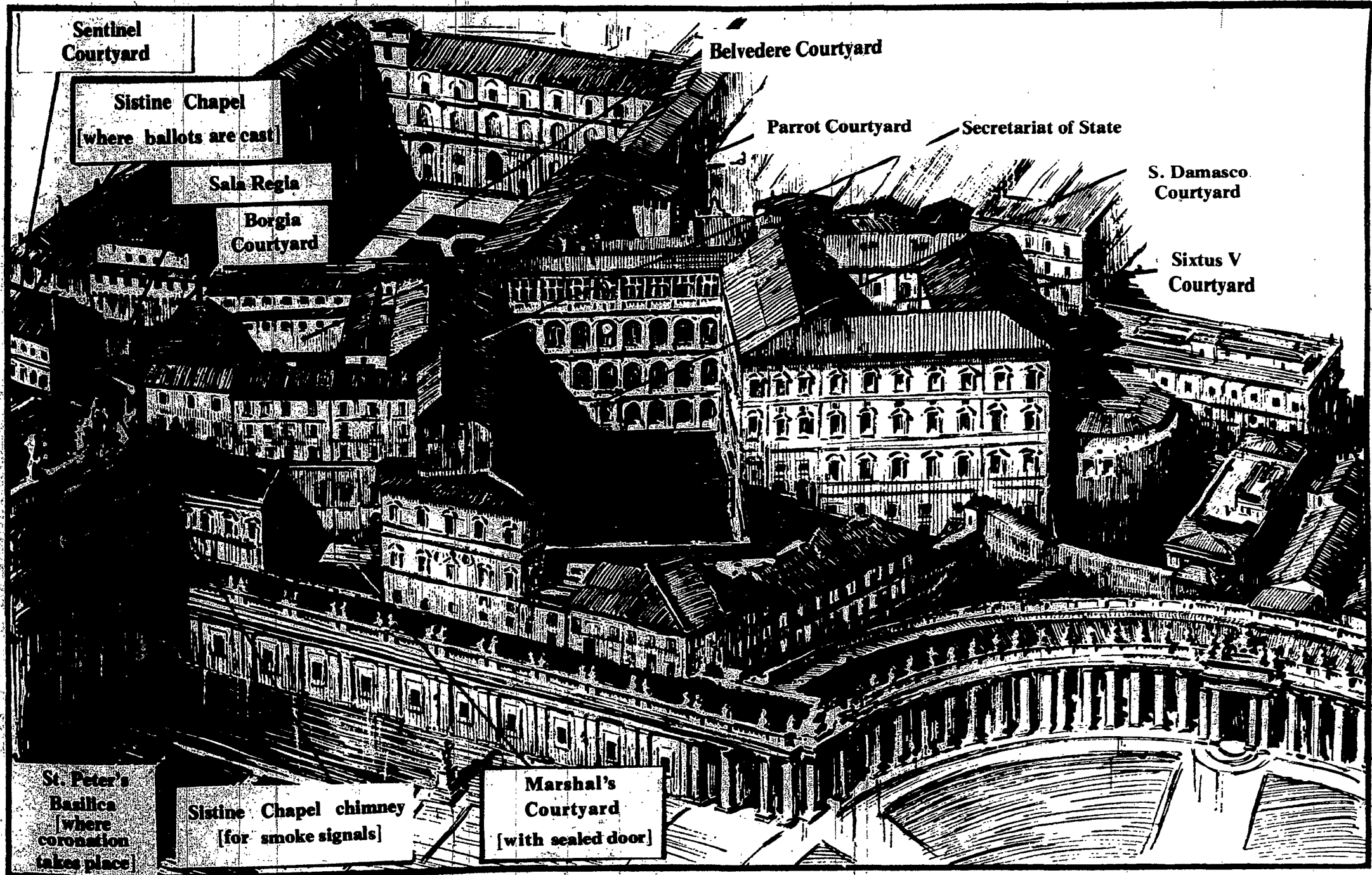
Parental confidence in Catholic Schools, a quiet but eloquent witness reinforced by real personal sacrifice, produces in others an awareness of the importance of Catholic education's ideals and

values. This confidence also encourages teachers to be available and open to parents who seek to be meaningfully involved in their children's schooling.

Along with the spirit of openness and understanding, it is necessary to have a spirit of understanding and sensitivity for the differences that may exist in each home and family setting. I trust our teachers will meet the challenge to be true Christian ministers who enable their children to respect and cherish the love of their parents and families and who accept the differences in their life styles and circumstances.

Finally, I turn to the children and young people of our diocese — those who are experiencing formal education and I ask them to join in this process of cooperation and understanding. These are the years in your life when the horizons hold no limits; when you do not look back and count the yesterdays and when you have not begun to count the tomorrows! September is always a difficult time for you because you must give up the carefree days of summer to return to routine and structure. I ask you to look upon this experience as opportunity; time when you are the center of concern for so many; time when you can begin to separate the essential from the trivial and begin to make your choices. Look to the people around you — to your parents, to your teachers and to your friends — they are helping you walk to tomorrow, but you must take the steps.

The vision I have attempted to illustrate here is one of full-time education — not a ten month or five hour a day experience. It is only possible when all involved, parents, teachers and students, are open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and willing to accept their role and responsibility in this life-time process for self and others. May the "academic year" of 1978-79 provide all of us with the opportunity to accept this responsibility!



Conclave Site

The conclave in which the cardinals will live in cells until a pope is finally chosen occupies a spacious part of the Vatican, made up essentially of the vast Palace of Sixtus V. The perimeter of the isolated zone starts with the Conclave Door (at the head of the steps named after Pius IX, which lead into the S. Damasco Courtyard, and goes to the left around the Apostolic Palace and includes the Marshal's Courtyard, the Hall of Blessings, Pauline Chapel, the Scala Regis, the Sistine Chapel, thence passing between the

Borgia Courtyard (not included in the conclave) and the Parrot Courtyard, which is within the conclave and includes the celebrated Stanze della Segnatura (with Raphael's great frescoes), the Borgia Apartments, running along the Lapidarium Gallery and turns toward the Triangle Courtyard. It follows the Pius IX stairs, flanking the outer walls of the Vatican, then turns inward, excluding the Sixtus V Courtyard, and runs toward the Pius IX stairs.

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