

Southern Tier:
Martin Toombs
268 W. 13th St., B-1
Elmira Heights, N.Y. 14903.
(607) 732-3371

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Auburn-Geneva:
Mary Ann Ginnerty
294 1/2 South Street Rd.
Auburn, N.Y.
(315) 253-2176

Sister Roberta Tierney

Catholic Schools 'Here to Stay'

Auburn—Catholic schools are here to stay was the message conveyed by Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, Diocesan Director of the Division of Education, at the Blessed Trinity Home School Association fall meeting Oct. 3 here.

Sister Roberta's opening remarks underlined the mission of Catholic education as responding to the call given by Christ himself 2000 years ago when he told the carefully chosen apostles to "go out and teach all nations."

She said that the teaching mission has held a priority in the Church through history from the catechumens in the early Church to the monasteries in the middle ages where learning was preserved. She feels that the institutions today are still echoing that message.

During the late 1950s and 1960s the schools emphasized they were "as good as" the public institutions. Then, the question was raised "is that all that we are about?"

In a pastoral letter "To Teach As Jesus Did" the American bishops reaffirmed the need for a Catholic school system as an arm of the educational mission of the Church. They issued a three-fold challenge to teach the word of God; to build unity and to offer service.

Emphasis was placed on the religious education program

which taught the total message, providing content as well as encouragement to integrate these concepts into a way of life. Teachers who were not just academically qualified but who are witnesses by the lives they lead were sought to underscore this message.

The second goal, to build community was based on the concept that community is not explicitly for ourselves, but that it exists to unify others. Emphasis was placed on building a strong community relationship within the faculties by praying together, learning to know one another and then extending this sense of community to the students.

Sister Roberta said the schools were encouraged to be concerned with the service as part of the larger community, the parish and the diocese.

She said the schools have weathered a crisis period with declines in enrollment at about seven and one half percent during the past three years. The cost of parochial school education has not risen as rapidly as costs in the public sectors, she noted.

She indicated that the struggle to obtain more assistance from the government must be a priority, not because parochial schools are looking for support for general programs, but as assistance to parents who are already



Left to right are Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, Father Clarence Gardner, pastor of St. Alphonsus; Charles King, president of the Home School Association; and Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSI, school principal.

paying taxes, tuition, and in some cases special fees because their child goes to a Catholic school.

In the summer of 1977, the Vatican published a paper on Catholic education entitled "Catholic Schools." The first challenge listed was to establish a sense of identity. It stated that the Catholic schools exist as a separate system of education foremost because the school is teaching the word of God and offering service.

The Vatican also called for a sensitivity to the fact our youth are being trained to live in a just society. It pointed out schools must work within a setting of total religious education. It encouraged the school advocates in the United States to seek funding from government sources.

Sister Roberta made reference to the many and varied opinions which predated the demise of the parochial schools. She said

that the point which they missed was the spirit of the parents who wish to retain the system.

"Faith is not only something to have, protect and guard," she said, "but something to share. We share through our actions. The people in the United States are willing to support the Catholic parochial schools. Parents are the backbone of the Catholic educational system," she concluded.

School Board Examines Capital Expense Policy

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) discussed a capital expense policy for the system at its meeting Nov. 9.

The institution of a capital expense policy would mark a first for the system. Included in its provisions are the four schools the system uses, St. Patrick's, St. Casimir's, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary's; the three convents it operates, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Mary's and St. Casimir's; and the schools it does not use, St. Peter and Paul, St. Anthony's, and St. Cecelia's.

Inclusion of schools not used by the system is an attempt to spread the capital expense costs fairly among the participating parishes.

The committee that wrote the proposal included Martin Tracy and Father Kevin Murphy, St. Patrick's; Sister Mary Davidica, Our Lady of Lourdes principal; Lawrence Stephens, board president; Ronald Pariso, St. Anthony's and Donald Stamp, St. Casimir's.

The proposal, explained by Tracy, would involve use this year of \$20,000 from last year's unanticipated surplus. In the future, funds would be allocated as a regular budget item.

The proposal calls for a Capital Repair Sub-committee of the Finance Committee to review project proposals, and establish a priority list, with specific projects to be included in the budget.

Board discussion dealt with the mechanics of the proposal. Thomas Santulli reported that St. Anthony's Parish Council approved the policy.

The vote was postponed so that other delegates could present the program to their parish councils.

The board did approve the allocation of the unanticipated surplus from last year, which included the \$20,000 allotment for the capital expense program.

In a related matter, J. Allan Wright, chairman of the ad hoc Search Committee examining the system's use of buildings reported that the junior high program were

moved, it is possible that the newly-opened building would have to conform to new building codes, which could be prohibitively expensive. He reported that he is checking further on that, and organizing tours of the buildings for his committee.

Catholic School Parents to Meet

Apalachin—The Catholic School Parents Group of St. Margaret Mary's Parish invites all Catholic school parents, those interested in Catholic schools, and anyone wishing information about Catholic schools to attend their next meeting Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the gold room of the church hall.

At the meeting, plans for National Catholic Schools Week will be discussed, and William (Pete) Gallagher, executive director of the state Federation of Catholic Schools, will be the guest speaker.



CARE Talks

Sister Mary Lynch, left, and Father William Graf, right, recently spoke at events sponsored by the Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, Continuing Adult Religious Education (CARE) Committee. A three session course on the prophets was taught by Sister Mary. Father Graf spoke on evangelization at a social-educational function.

Adoration

Seneca Falls—A Eucharistic Day will be held at St. Patrick's Church on Nov. 26. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for private adoration following a noon Mass. At 4:30 p.m. a eucharistic prayer service and homily will be conducted by Father Charles Latus, pastor of St. Patrick's.

A. W. BELBY & SON
Funeral Home
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.

Gerould's Pharmacies
S. Main St. and
Church & Hoffman
Elmira.
Delivery Service
733-6696

'Cut-A-Thon' Aids Burn Unit

Elmira—The hair cutting efforts of the Elmira Hairdressers Association netted \$500 for St. Joseph's Burn Unit.

Elizabeth Port, association president, and Carlene Freeman, project chairman, presented the proceeds from the "Cut-A-Thon" to Kathy Swinsick, RN, head nurse at the burn facility.

The contribution will be used for necessary equipment. The needs are defined by professional staff, who participate in on-going educational programs to improve treatment techniques to relieve discomfort experienced by burn victims.

The unit will observe its first anniversary in December. It was established through the contributions of hundreds of Twin Tiers residents and organizations, and an Appalachian Regional Commission grant.

Bazaar Dec. 2

Ithaca—Immaculate Conception Parish will have an "Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar" Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the school cafeteria. There will be many gift items and new and different Christmas ornaments. Baked goods and a lunch also will be available.

Hopf Duo

Seneca Falls—St. Patrick's Youth Group, recently sponsored a concert starring The Original John Hopf Duo. More than 50 youth attended the event which featured local entertainers Ralph Scicchitano, and John Hopf and his brother Ralph.