

# Catholic Schools Week

## Experience Results in Optimism

By TIMOTHY E. LEAHY  
Superintendent of Schools

After having been involved with Catholic education in our diocese as a teacher, principal, religious education coordinator, Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent of Schools for the past 12 years, I will be moving on to new opportunities and challenges in a new field after today. I am pleased that I have this opportunity, especially as we begin our 1979 celebration of Catholic Schools Week, to share some of my personal reflections that I believe tie in nicely with

this year's theme of "family."

My commitment to Catholic education is a direct result of my initial years of teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Brighton. Under a principal who had a special sensitivity and educational insight much ahead of her time, a pastor who was and still is totally supportive and committed to Catholic schools and personally to his school staff, and with a school secretary and faculty who, collectively, were the most unique "family" of dedicated, loving and caring people I have ever met, I was fortunate to become a part of a community of people

who knew the true meaning of Christian education. That "family," which lost and added different members over the years, was dedicated to educating the parish school children in moral standards of behavior rooted in Religious convictions—a Catholic education. That experience solidified my dedication to the system because I could see proof of actively living out what we were teaching and results of the work we did.

Besides my obvious belief in and continued commitment to our Catholic education system due to my years of professional involvement, as a layman involved with

church, as a citizen and as a parent, I see an increasing need for God-centered education, freedom of educational choice and diversity in education that the Catholic schools in our diocese excellently provide. The success of our schools has been seen in their survival through the ups and downs over the years which has made them stronger. As educators, priests, sisters and parents we must become determinists and begin to meet and solve with conviction the problems we face.

Our children are our only heritage. They are the future of this country and without the provision of

value education we would soon see the deterioration of human relations. Too often these days the term family refers to a group of people who have keys to the same house. One primary means to a healthy concept of family and of paramount concern to parents is the proper, balanced, physical, intellectual, emotional, religious, ethical and social development of children and young people. Our Catholic schools can and do provide that proper, balanced development in partnership with the parent. To do that, however, it is truly essential that we all be true believers in our product and its purpose: the

teaching of both religious and secular subjects in an integrated fashion.

As I conclude my professional years with our diocese, I wish to express my appreciation for the support of my own family, friends, fellow educators, central office staff and parents and thank them for being part of many happy, rewarding and tremendously enriching years. It will be my continued hope and prayer that the Catholic School System in our diocese and the people dedicated to it continue to receive the backing, support and recognition that this ministry and these dedicated people so richly deserve.

## Peace and Justice Study Integral Part of Education

By SISTER EDWARDINE WEAVER  
Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum

Catholic education has always maintained a clear emphasis on moral values. It is in our own day that the Church has proclaimed most explicitly that peace and justice are at the core of the Gospel and that education for peace and justice is at the core of Catholic education. Catholic educators in particular have a distinct and clearly defined responsibility to work for peace and justice as they interpret the social doctrine of the Church and set

in motion the philosophical principles laid down by recent Papal and Episcopal documents. The modern Catholic must be taught how to interpret the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in the light of present day social instability. They must learn that peace is far more than the absence of war and see it as interwoven with justice based on love for one another. The increasing inter-connectedness and mutual interdependence of peoples of this world brought about by technological development makes it mandatory that the one family type of world community develop in an

orderly fashion. Problems arising from a multiplying population and from economic and political change cannot be ignored by anyone without the danger of peril to many.

In response to the Catholic Bishops "Call to Action", during the past school year the Catholic Schools Office embarked on an intensification of this responsibility.

There is a distinct advantage to the timing of the Peace and Justice Curriculum Project in so far as this nation has now taken a firm stand on human rights around the world. The format of the project is appealing because it is not limited to any one level of education but seeks to apply relevant materials for all levels and various age groups. This is very much in accord with the concept of lifelong learning and makes it possible for new developments to be considered as new conditions create social changes. It also means that the educator can avoid the rigid thinking that comes from assigning

materials to one level and then assuming that once learned the topic of justice can safely be put aside. What is recommended for faculty discussion can certainly be used for any parish group meetings within the schedule of adult education program. To put it in technical language, the material is geared toward growth in learning and not toward academic achievement as it should be. The program includes: sessions for faculty orientation for the purpose of familiarizing the faculty with the materials and introduce the theme of social justice; school student units; Board of Education unit; preaching unit; parents unit; reference unit.

All principals and teachers were provided with an orientation session during the past year and the program was piloted in six elementary, four secondary schools and one parish school of religion. This current year, intensive work with the program has been expanded to include more schools.



### Working Together

St. Ambrose School reflects and supports the values and goals of a Christian family. Above, sixth grade teacher, Sister Wilma, helps her class with their project of making impressions like batik on paper.

## St. Michaels: Schools Week

Newark — Readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic will take a back seat at St. Michael School from Feb. 4 through Feb. 10. That's the week the parochial school will join the nationwide celebration of Catholic Schools' Week. In charge of the local school's activities are Sister Mary Marvin and Miss Margaret Truini, general chairmen, who have planned activities to complement this year's theme, "Next to the Family, the Catholic School."

Mrs. Shirley Stirpe has put together a special slide show focussing on St. Michael School students to be shown at all Masses, at St. Michael's, Feb. 4 to begin the celebration. Also in charge of Mass activities that day are Mrs. Pam Slater and Miss Helen Torma.

Anyone in the community is invited to attend regular classes and special activities. One event includes a prayer day and a slide presentation in the gymnasium on Monday, Feb. 5, presented by Miss Jean Hummel, Mrs. Rosemary Bramante, and Mrs. Jill DeCook.

guard performance on Tuesday, Feb. 6, are Miss Margaret Truini, Mrs. Greta Nelson, and Miss Mary Hausman. The student council will also sponsor a balloon launch.

Each grade in the school will present a favorite song complete with costumes and dances on Song Fest Day, Feb. 7.

Thursday, Feb. 8, will be devoted to the indoor Winter Olympics. Frank Mamuschia, Theodore Russell, and Mrs. Mary Ellen Kerr will organize races, tugs of war, and volleyball games.

Sister Joyce McGinn, school principal, and Mrs. Sue Hartman are in charge of Winners Day, Friday, Feb. 9. On that day a boy and girl will be chosen from each class to receive the Christian Witness Award. Song Fest winners will be announced then, and the faculty will be pitted against the grade winners in a volleyball duel.

A school family Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by a family dinner and talent show will mark the culmination of the week-long celebration Saturday, Feb. 10.



Families, students, instructors, aides and volunteers all make Holy Trinity school a special community. Above Eric Barbehenn and Mark Sweet listen to Mrs. Mary Mason a school aide.

### Special Mass

A concelebrated Mass is scheduled for Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sunday, Feb. 4, 2:30 p.m. for all the Rochester parishes. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the principal celebrant assisted by Bishop John E. McCafferty, Father Lewis Brown, director of Religious Education, Father Leon Hogenkamp, principal of McQuaid, Father John Menner, principal of Aquinas Institute, and Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of Propagation of Faith.

## First in New Course

St. John's was one of the first schools asked to pilot the Peace and Justice Curriculum. The first year was devoted to faculty and parent orientation. This year we introduced it to the children in the religion, social studies and science programs. The children have responded positively through various follow up activities. Projects included walking around the neighborhood, looking for strong points and areas in need of more care; discussion and research on different ethnic backgrounds; collecting clothing, toys, buying food for a Laotian family, discussing

nutrition and planning meals. Two joint faculty meetings were held with St. John's/ Blessed Sacrament schools at which Father Tim Weider and Father Jankowiak presented theological background for the program.

In addition, two teachers from St. John's, Miss Mary Caffrey and Mrs. Nikki Carter, were asked to speak to the coordinators of the pilot schools in October. The topics included "How to present the Peace and Justice Program to parents" and "How a presentation is done for the classroom."



### School Rapport

First graders at St. Vincent's school in Corning know helping one another is part of being a family.