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CCGEB Approves Budget After Spirited Discussion

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — Parish representatives called for substantial reductions in parish assessments to fund the Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) before passing next year's budget at the board's April 5 meeting.

The 1979-80 budget, challenged by Father Kevin Murphy of St. Patrick's in March, failed to get support only from St. Anthony's, after a lengthy discussion concerning methods of funding the system.

The \$637,000 budget to run the four-school system includes parish assessments of \$467,000. Assessments are based on both enrollment and parish income.

Strong feelings were expressed at the meeting by board members and pastors that the parish assessment total should be reduced.

The past three budgets have increased expenses \$73,000, while increasing assessments \$3,000. In the 1977-78 budget, assessments totaled \$464,000; that figure was repeated for this school year. Next year's levy will be \$3,000 higher. The result has been that the parish share of the system's expenses has declined from 82 percent of the 1977-78 budget, to 73 percent of the budget approved for next year.

But noting the pressures on parish finances caused by rising costs and declining income, several persons called for substantial reductions in the total amount being paid by the parishes.

J. Allan Wright reported that Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Council approved the budget, but recommended that outside funding sources be explored, and asked that teacher salaries be brought up to diocesan recommendations.

Martin Tracy stated that St. Patrick's Parish Council voted unanimously to support the budget and to pay their \$77,522 assessment. Earlier, Father Murphy said the parish could afford no more than \$70,000.

Thomas Santulli noted that the burden the parish's \$48,101 assessment would place on St. Anthony's, pointing out that only 60 students represent the parish's 800 families, and the parish has a responsibility to serve those families not sending children to the Catholic schools. He reported that the parish council did not feel that it could decide on support of the budget until after it had determined its other expenses this year.

Upon further questioning by other board members, Santulli conceded that the parish might consider dropping out of the CCGEB.

Father Richard O'Connell reported that St. Peter and Paul would support the budget, but that he was concerned that too much was being asked of the parishes.

Father Paul McCabe, Lourdes pastor, informed the board of a system being put into place by several pastors to prevent families who do not support their parish from changing parishes each year to get their children re-registered. Lawrence Stephens, board president, noted that the

board's position is that it will support whatever the pastors decide concerning parishioner support.

Father Murphy pointed out that action incorporated in the budget to increase tuition for students not from participating parishes to \$800; the level paid by the parish paying the most per student, was inadequate, as the parishioners would also be paying tuition, and the non-parishioners would pay only the \$800. Santulli then offered a motion that students not from participating parishes pay \$910 tuition; \$800 plus the \$110 tuition for a family with one student. The rate for the current year is \$616. The motion was approved in a 4 to 3 vote.

The budget was then approved by a 6 to 1 vote.

In other action, Stephens reported that the Carmel Quinn concert conducted by the Ways and Means Committee raised more than \$3500.

The CCGEB also gave its Personnel Committee authorization to select a principal for Our Lady of Lourdes School for next year. Santulli invited board members and pastors to the upcoming interviews.

And Father McCabe reported the pastors received a reply from Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan Education Director, concerning their letter protesting the exclusion of students outside the city of Rochester from the diocese's elementary tuition subsidy. She stated that a fund of \$12,000 is being set up for elementary subsidies beginning in the 1980-81 school year, he said.

Seder Supper Draws 300

Elmira — A Christian Seder Supper drew 300 to St. Mary's Auditorium Wednesday, April 11.

Conducted on the eve of Passover and Holy Thursday, the meal included a teaching by Sal Ruriani and the recitation of the traditional questions of the Jewish Seder Supper, with the addition of Christian elements.

The responses to such questions as "Why is this night different from all other nights?" from the Jewish service included not only the explanation of the Hebrew Exodus from Egypt, but of its additional meaning to Christians.

A reader explained that "in the New Testament, we find the fulfillment of these Old Testament events... Jesus is the Lamb without blemish required for the Passover ritual of Exodus and also the one which Abraham said would be provided."

The event's organizer, Leonard Dezeliski, St. Mary's Religious Education Coordinator, noted that this year's program concentrated on the importance of Jerusalem for Christians, which is especially meaningful with the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty just having been signed, he noted.

Ruriani's talk dealt with Scriptural references to Jerusalem. He pointed out some of the many references to the city in the Old Testament, noting the city's importance to Christians as well as to Jews, and to requests that the city be prayed for.

The dinner was the third such observance; attendance has grown from about 100 the first year, to the 300 who attended this year's event.

Elmira Schools Set Registration

Elmira — Registration for new students and those entering kindergarten in the schools operated by the Chemung County General Education Board will be Wednesday, April 25, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., and on Thursday and Friday, April 26 and 27, during school hours. The schools involved are St. Mary's, St. Casimir's, Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Patrick's Junior High School.

Principals and teachers will be at the schools Wednesday evening so prospective parents and students may tour the buildings and speak to the teachers. The schools also will be welcoming prospective parents during the week of April 23-27 for classroom visitations.

Those registering will need a birth certificate, baptismal certificate (if Catholic), and a pastor's letter if the family is a member of a participating parish. Further information can be obtained by calling the system's office, 734-4414.

Festival May 19 At Notre Dame

Elmira — The fourth annual Notre Dame Festival will be Saturday, May 19 from noon until 9 p.m. on the school grounds. The planning committee, under the guidance of the Notre Dame Parents Association, has held several meetings, and has said that it guarantees that the festival will be the biggest, most imaginative ever.

A "public interest" display area is being added this year, so local groups and organizations can show their services to the community.

A wide selection of "ethnic food" booths will be available. The program will include a Children's Theater in the school auditorium.

Household items and books will be among the items available in the Arts and Crafts tent.

Spring Cotillion Set for May 5

Auburn — The 23rd annual Mercy Spring Cotillion, a dinner dance to benefit the Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center, is scheduled for May 5 at the Springside Inn, beginning with cocktails at 7 p.m.

The cotillion is sponsored each year by the Mercy Auxiliary. This year's committee members are: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Poole, chairpersons; Mr. and Mrs. E. Joseph Hassett, treasurer and ticket chairperson; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Cuddy, invitations; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Maher, reservations; Mr. and Mrs. Ormande E. King, decorations; and Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Vanderloo, music.

DCG Presents Car Talk

Elmira — The Elmira Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics meeting Sunday, April 22 will be a program on car maintenance. Timothy Greenough will present the program, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's School. He will discuss car care and minor repairs.

On Sunday, May 20, at 7:30 p.m., the group will present Father Robert O'Neill, head of the diocesan tribunal, who will speak on annulments.

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A local radio station is planning a live broadcast from the festival from noon until 4 p.m. During the supper hours, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., a special attraction has been arranged, never before seen in the Elmira area — Betty and Jack Walker will entertain with their 17-piece accordion band with such selections as the theme from "Rocky," "2001," "Sing-a-Song," "Exodus," and more. The group has numerous awards to its credit. Other entertainment is planned for later that evening.

Susan and Robert Gamer are co-chairing the festival, which is designed to help raise the funds necessary to meet the rising costs of education.

Sale Planned April 28

Elmira — A "Whale of a Sale" benefiting the Elmira consolidated Catholic schools will be conducted Saturday, April 28 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in St. Anthony's Parish Center.

Household items, toys, furniture, games, bikes, outdoor furniture and many other items are among those expected to be available.

Donations for the sale will be received on Friday, April 27 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. If necessary, pick up can be arranged with Beth and Robert Darmstadt at 733-2701. Tax exempt slips will be available; the sponsoring Ways and Means Committee has requested that no clothing be submitted.

St. Patrick's Sets Program

Seneca Falls — St. Patrick's Parish will begin a special four part educational program that will deal with different phases of parish life on April 30.

Each of the four sessions will be on successive Mondays beginning at 7:45 p.m. Topics for discussion are Sunday Morning, A Spark of Life, A Family Affair, and Sounds of Silence. The program, sponsored by the parish Education Committee, will be led by Father Michael Conboy, pastor, and Mr. and Mrs. James Fay.

The program is open to all interested parishioners.

Gerould's Pharmacies

S. Main St. and
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Elmira

Delivery Service
733-6696

Easter Gifts

More than 300 gifts that symbolize the meaning of Easter were made and donated by students at St. Mary's School, Auburn, for distribution to the elderly by the Mercy Rehabilitation Center recently. Shown above are some of the hand made items that ranged from plants, Easter bread to tray decorations and fruit filled Easter baskets.