

School Consolidation Offers Stabilized Educational Programs and Services

The Rush Henrietta Catholic Schools move into the second phase of their consolidation this September and already hoped for benefits are emerging. A prekindergarten program, an expanded art program, and the strength of a more comprehensive school board are already in evidence.

The three-year plan involves the gradual consolidation of Good Shepherd and Guardian Angels schools which accommodate pupils from their own parishes, St. Joseph's in Rush along with several non parishioners who reside in the area. With the implementation of the final phase in 1980, Guardian Angels will contain a prekindergarten program and grades K through 3, and Good Shepherd, grades 4 through 8.

The prekindergarten program will open this year

rather than later as originally planned because "The consolidation is moving along so smoothly," said Sister Barbara Kuhn, principal.

At Good Shepherd, the consolidation has made available two classrooms, one of which now houses the Religious Education offices for the extensive parish program and one which has become a central art room for the school.

"With the addition of special art classes this year we'll be offering our students an enrichment experience we were not able to provide before with our lack of space," noted Sister Joseph Mary Switzer, principal. She also believes that the revamping of the school library, being worked on by members of the Home School Association, and which will focus on student needs at the intermediate and junior high

level, will improve the quality of education.

Both administrators agree that consolidation requires many hours of planning, coordination and leadership support from priests and parishioners, but that the efforts are worth it. They cite the fact that the two faculties working together have learned from each other and have grown professionally and socially. Also, the consolidation has enabled two or three teachers to work a plan together for a single grade rather than having one working in isolation.

The two schools have

exchanged books, desks and instructional materials. They have also coordinated calendars, uniforms, an instrumental music program and finances along with the regular curriculum. The pastors, principals and coordinators of religious education also met to coordinate the sacramental programs that are offered to the children.

When the consolidation plan was accepted by the school boards and parish councils in 1978, an interim school board consisting of members of the three parishes was formed. This board

handled affairs through the initial transition and created a new constitution. Once this was approved, the consolidated board became official. Members meet monthly at one of the three parishes.

Co-presidents, Gerald Jaromin and Michael Triassi, led the board through a successful drive last year, requesting the retention of the Primary Project services at the Catholic schools in the district and the busing of children involved in speech and the project to the neutral site of services. Board members believe that their new position as represen-

tatives of parents in the whole district rather than just one section of it has enhanced their position. They credit this and the district officials' openness to the needs of the students for their success.

Board members also strongly support the offering of an alternative form of education based on Gospel values to any child in the district from prekindergarten to grade 8. Apparently parents agree with this because enrollment figures for the 1979-80 school year are steady, showing a decline of less than 3 percent in the consolidated system.



Activity planning has already begun over at Aquinas. APA officers, (sitting left to right), Mrs. Ann Tuttle, (Sacred Heart) secretary; Mrs. Kathleen Lynd, (St. Ambrose), president; back, Jack Battaglia, (St. Charles Borromeo), vice president and John Trabold (St. Lawrence), treasurer, meet to coordinate such events as a November card party and buffet; the Crystal Ball Feb. 2 and the garage sale scheduled for May.

Aquinas Opens With Active Plans

The school year is ready to begin and Aquinas Institute is all set to open Sept. 5. The first two days will be devoted to orientation with classes starting that Friday, Sept. 7.

The month promises to be a busy one with the Aquinas Parents Association (APA) hosting a welcoming night for freshman parents. The association is also presenting a dinner-theater featuring "Funny Girl", Sept. 21, 22, 29, 30.

The Aquinas football team, coached by Nick Teta, will begin its season against Auburn, Friday, Sept. 14. Two weeks later they will meet the Fairport Red Raiders at Holleder Stadium.

The Sports Boosters Club, headed by George Loiacono, have scheduled a dinner, Sept. 11. The club is also sponsoring a golf tournament at Brook-Lea

Country Club, Sept. 24. For further information call Loiacono (482-5958) or John Nuccitelli (247-6910).

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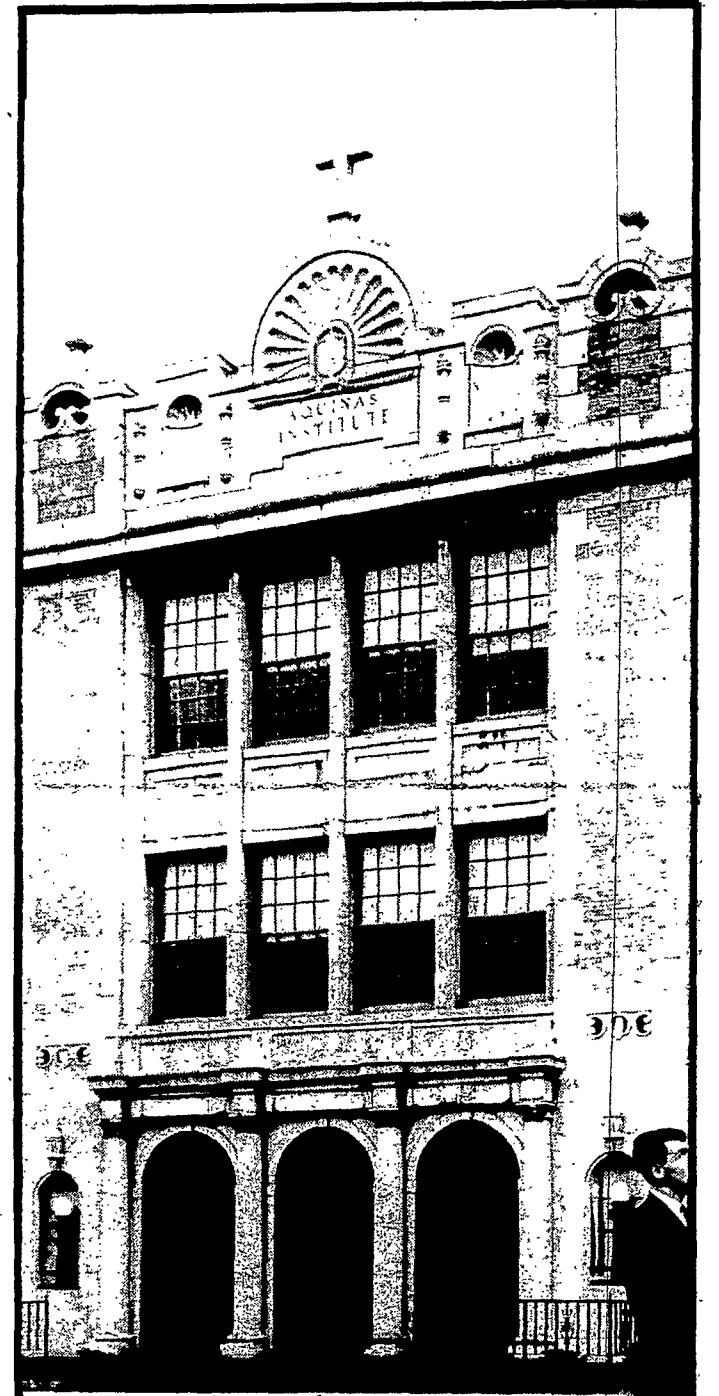
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