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Wednesday, August 22, 1979

Diocesan Committee Forms Gifted Student Program

The Diocese of Rochester is committed to offering quality education to all its school children. As part of this commitment of responsibility, and in compliance with recent State and Federal educational policies, educators in the diocese have recognized the need to focus attention on those students with special needs, specifically the gifted and talented.

In the Spring of 1977 the diocese and six school districts were invited by BOCES (Board of Cooperative Education Services) II to participate in a program designed to train teachers for work with academically gifted students. Seven teachers were selected to attend a three week summer workshop. During that time the teachers learned theoretical background, the identification and selection of gifted and talented students, methods of developing critical thinking skills, program development and curriculum writing. The districts were assigned two tasks for the 77-78 school year — guidelines outlining the district's position on gifted and talented were to be written, and a pilot program was to be implemented. The committee met monthly and succeeded in writing the Diocesan Guidelines for distribution to each elementary school. The pilot program, focusing

on local history, involved 17 children from grades 3-5 at St. John's of Rochester. The students met after school twice a week for a 6 week period.

During the summer of 1978, the committee members attended a second BOCES II program with the focus on "creativity and the gifted student". Each member developed a unit of study and once completed, these units were compiled and distributed to all participating districts.

In establishing goals for the '78-79 school year, the diocesan committee decided to develop an addendum in "creativity" to supplement the guidelines and to make arrangements for sharing their knowledge with the administrators and teachers of our 77 elementary schools. Committee members attended each Principals' Association meeting and gave administrators an overview of the gifted and talented program in the diocese.

Using monies from a state mini-grant, the members prepared and presented a workshop for teachers of the Finger Lakes Association in January, 1979. The special funds also enabled the diocese to purchase books and materials for the Curriculum Resource Library at the Education Center.

Last month, two committee members were invited by the Livingston County BOCES to give a presentation at a parent workshop. They offered the parents numerous ideas and activities that the family could do at home.

This coming year the diocese hopes to continue presenting informational meetings and workshops in

CYO Plans Programs

Looking forward to the new school year, the Catholic Youth Organization's training services staff has begun to schedule workshops to meet the specific needs of young people and their advisors throughout the diocese.

These sessions cover such topics as human relations, selfawareness, leadership, organizational development, and employment seeking.

For the past several years the training staff has conducted a number of highly successful programs for parishes, schools, libraries, agencies and youth groups.

Other sessions include Leadership Conferences, Supervisor Training, Staff Development, Coaching and Values-Clarification.

the schools. For additional information concerning diocesan involvement with the gifted and talented, please contact Sister Edwardine Weaver at the Diocesan Office; Barbara Salamone, committee chairman, St. Lawrence School; or members Eloise Martin, St. Lawrence; Katie Kehoe, Christ the King; Barbara Feidner, St. John's of Rochester.

The training staff is headquartered at CYO, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604; (716) 454-2030.

LEGAL NOTICE **Nondiscriminatory Policy**

GUITARS

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It is the policy of the elementary and secondary schools of the Diocese of Rochester not to discriminate on the basis of sex in the educational programs or activities which it operates.

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The Diocese is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and the implementing regulations not to discriminate on the basis of sex. This requirement extends to employment by the Diocese and its elementary and secondary schools.

Inquiries concerning the application of Title IX and the implementing regulations to the Diocese may be referred to Rev. Richard Kinsky who has been designated by the Diocesan General Education, Office as Title IX compliance officer. Rev. Richard Kinsky office is at 1150 Buffalo Road, telephone 328-3210.)



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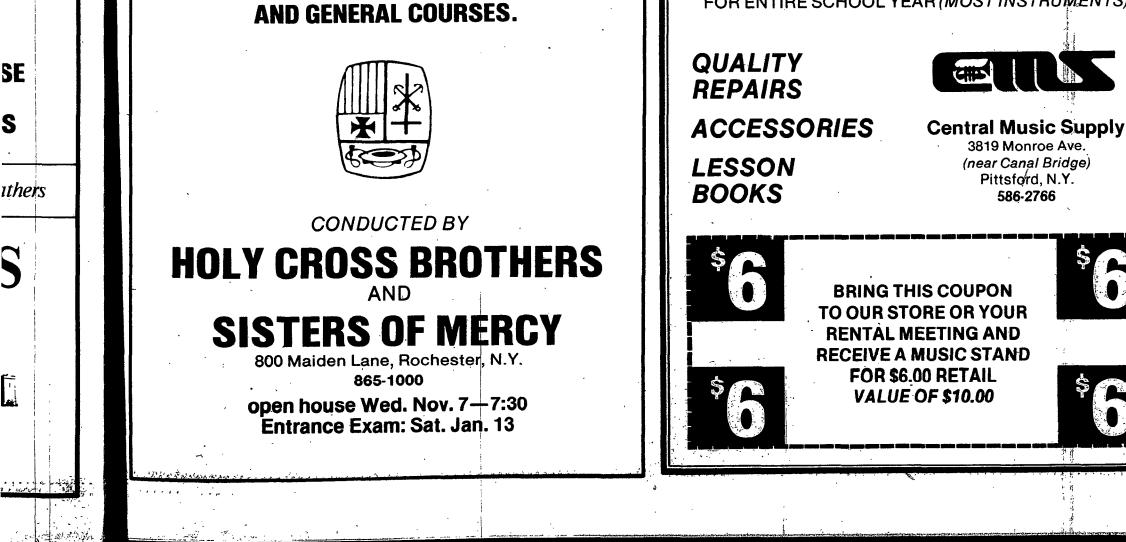
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