

Why Choose a



Bishop Sends Message

February, 1980

My Dear People:

As we participate in the Year of the Family we are reminded of the many responsibilities and rights of parents in making decisions and choices for their families. We are privileged in our country to enjoy many freedoms which enable us to foster our values and beliefs.

One of those freedoms is the right to select educational opportunities for our children. Next to the family, the influence of education on lives of young people is a most effective one. I look to our Catholic schools as institutions which promote and inculcate the truths of our faith as well as the practice of it. I join with our Holy Father and the Bishops of the United States in reaffirming that Catholic school education is our most viable means of educating children and young people in the knowledge and love of God.

Many changes have taken place in our schools in the past ten years. School personnel, working closely with parents, have examined their role and purpose and have entered into a period of revitalization to respond to the challenge of Word, Worship and Service.

Structurally, we have been and are faced with changes in our schools. Mobility, decline in the numbers of school age children available and rising costs have necessitated some closings and consolidations. Throughout these adjustments the quality and the uniqueness of the Catholic schools have been maintained and strengthened.

During the next few weeks, our secondary schools and many of our elementary schools will be registering students for the next academic year. I urge you to give serious consideration to the impact and value of Catholic school education as you make this important choice for your children. I realize the financial sacrifice involved, but believe the "product" produces benefits that cannot be measured.

With special blessings for our families, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

†Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester



One For All, All For One

The students and faculty of Blessed Trinity School, Auburn, say it for all the Catholic schools in the Rochester Diocese — "A quality school offers a quality education. A quality education produces a happy child."



Schools Promote Activities

Highlights at Christ the King School are the spring and Christmas concerts under the direction of Sister Joanne Haselwander. Above, 5th and 6th grade members of the King's Chorus rehearse.

Blessed Sacrament Registers

Registration for the 1980-81 school year at Blessed Sacrament Junior High school will be March 3-7, 10-3 p.m. with an added time slot of 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 4.

The location of the Monroe Avenue school provides easy access to the Museum, Public Branch Library, Art Gallery and other points of interest. The school's curriculum includes advanced placement high school courses in French and Algebra. It also includes music, orchestra, and a career education program which features speakers and tours from area business.

For further information call 473-3937 during school hours. Tours can be arranged.



Music Studies

Ted Murch and Charles Genung participate in the instrumental program at St. Casmir's in Elmira that is under the direction of Sister Leona, RSM.

An Invitation To Support An Educational Choice

Dear Catholic Parent:

Our organization, the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents, has adopted as its unofficial slogan "Freedom of Choice in Education." We actively work in all areas — government and Church — to ensure that all Catholic parents have a real choice in the way in which their children are to be educated. We believe so strongly in our parochial schools that we invite you to join us as Catholic school parents.

You may well ask, "Is a Catholic School education worth the extra cost?" — By every objective test of educational quality, the Catholic schools in our diocese — elementary and secondary — consistently provide an excellent education in all subjects to their students. In addition to this proven superior achievement of students, the God centered atmosphere in our schools uniquely demonstrates to them the presence of God in every minute of our lives, even those important five-and-a-half hour school days.

"Are parochial schools available to everyone?" — Almost without exception. Gone are the days when a child could attend only if he or she lived in a parish that had a school. The Diocese of Rochester, recognizing that parochial school education must be available to all of its children, has established a policy which requires that all parishes must participate in the cost of educating their parishioners' children in Catholic schools, even if the parish doesn't have its own school. This not only makes the cost of Catholic elementary education a more broadly based responsibility of the entire Catholic community, but it also encourages

parents to remain actively affiliated with their own parishes even if they don't have a parish school.

"Are Catholic schools here to stay?" — In a 1976 national study, it was found that "only 10 per cent of the Catholic population believes that the Catholic school system has had its day and should be allowed to sink into non-existence."

"Then why so much talk of closings?" — The declining birthrate has hit all school systems, but that's only part of the answer in our case. The 90 per cent of the Catholic community who believe in Catholic schools need to stand up and promote their value and message. Without strong commitment and support the attitude of the 10 per cent will determine the future.

We highly recommend our schools to you and your children. We know that we are among the few in our nation who honestly can claim that we attempt to educate the whole child — the intellectual, the emotional and the spiritual. You as parents are indeed the ones primarily responsible for the education your children. That is a right and a responsibility which we urge you to exercise by considering a parochial school education for them. Join us.

Sincerely yours,

Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents