

Families are Greatest Source for Child's Education

By Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND
Director of Education



SR. ROBERTA TIERNEY

It has been customary each year at this time to offer words of motivation and welcome to those returning to our institutions of formal education be they students, teachers, administrators or those in supporting roles such as clergy and parents. This year, I would like to use this space and opportunity to reflect on the influence on the lives of young people outside of the formal educational structure.

There are 168 hours each week. Based upon the figure of six hours a day for five days, the formal school education of a child is limited to thirty hours. This does not take in account four day weeks, early dismissals for dentist appointments, etc. Therefore, the time that a student spends in a school situation is minimal compared with the time spent at home or with peers.

Statistics presented for the White House Conference on Families illustrated the social patterns that are emerging for families and young people in our country. The increasing percentage of working mothers, the number of single parent families, the affect of mobility on social and educational adjustment of children, and the decline of the concept of the ex-

tended family are evident. Behavioral patterns pointed out in the research show an increase in runaways, drinking and drug problems, juvenile delinquency and suicide as the second leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24.

A review of these statistics is not meant to frustrate and depress, but to develop an awareness of the realities present in our world today. We are a redeemed people; a hope-filled people. Together, parents, educators, faith communities have and share the responsibility to offer a heritage of Christian life and hope to our young people.

In his recent research, "Catholic Schools and the Family - Empirical Findings", Father Andrew Greeley concludes that the family is the religious teacher par excellence; Catholic Schools help. It is not so much formal teaching that influences the religious nature, but more the

example and attitudes that are rooted in family. He affirms that the programs for the "Year of Family" are the right issues for the right Church at the right time.

Catholic educational institutions are called to recognize the impact of family influence on the children and to try to educate the family unit whenever possible. Catholic schools are challenged to bind parents and children more directly into the total parish community. The sense of belonging through community seems to have a durable impact on adult life for parents - presently and for children in the years to come.

To achieve the true goals of Catholic education to teach the Good News; to practice the message of the Good News through community and service, we must have the acceptance of responsibility from all involved. It is necessary to recognize that neither home nor school can claim an

exclusive market of influence. Together, with the prayers and support of the total Church community, the combination of faith-

filled home and school can provide for the men and women of tomorrow needed to change the statistics of today!

Diocese Names New Principals

Sister Roberta Tierney, director of Diocesan Education has announced administrative position changes. New principals and vice principals are: Sister Evelyn Breslyn, SSND, vice principal, Bishop Kearney; Father Eugene A. Zimpler, SJ., principal, McQuaid; Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, principal, Nazareth Academy; Sister Joan Cawley, SSJ, vice principal, Nazareth Academy; Sister Rita Habecker, SSND, Holy Ghost, Rochester; Sister Francella Quinn, SSJ, St. Augustine's, Rochester; Sister Mary Marvin, RSM, St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester; Sister Karen

Kenrick, RSM, Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira; Sister Patricia Carroll, SSJ, St. Patrick's Junior High, Elmira; Miss Charlotte Pitrella, St. Michael's, Newark.

The following will assume new positions as Religious Education administrators, coordinators and directors: Sister Ellen Kuhl, SSJ, Holy Redeemer and St. Michael's, Rochester; Sister Lucille Lenhard, RSM, Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira; Mrs. Mary Anderson and Mrs. Gerry Mertson, St. John, Newark Valley; Sister Ellen Ward, RSM, St. Andrew, Rochester; Mrs. Evelyn

Kirst, St. Augustine, Rochester; Miss Nancy LaMonica, St. Boniface, Rochester; Miss Marie Venaglia, St. Francis De Sales, Geneva; M. Michael Struble, St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; Mrs. Deborah Reed, St. Mary's, Corning; Mrs. Anna Black, St. Patrick's, Corning; Stephen Graff, St. Patrick's, Cato and St. Thomas the Apostle, Red Creek; Mrs. Judy Tobin, St. Paul of the Cross, Honeoye Falls; Miss Katherine Nicolsia, St. Pius Tenth, Chili; Miss Margaret Orman, St. Salome, Rochester; Mrs. Frances Powarzynski, St. Thomas

More, Rochester; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Harrison, St. Vincent de Paul, Corning; Mrs. Ruth Hauser, St. Mary of the Assumption, Scottsville; Miss Christine Cheronik, St. Mary, Dansville; Miss Dolores Brien, St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester; Thomas Driscoll, St. Louis, Pittsford.

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