

Strong Catechist Training Program Aim Of Religious Education

In 1979-80, 978 volunteer catechists attended CERT (Continuing Education for Religion Teachers) courses at 32 centers throughout the Rochester Diocese. These teachers, who came from 114 parishes, are among the four to five thousand catechists who volunteer their time and services in their own parishes and are the key persons in the Religious Education Programs for youth and children — classes we used to call "CCD." The diocesan CERT Program is offered to help these catechists improve and update their background in doctrine and methods of teaching.

According to Sister Mary Lynch, SSJ, who takes charge of Religion Teacher Development Program for the diocesan Religious Office of the Education Office, there is a turnover of almost half of the volunteer religion teachers in the diocese.

Hopefully, as the teachers receive more help through the CERT Program and their own parish religious education personnel, there will be more stability in the religion programs.

CERT classes are arranged with the cooperation of the Religious Education Office field representatives in each region, the directors and coordinators of Religious Education in the parishes, and a corps of dedicated instructors. The present revision included courses which lead to basic certification, experienced catechist certification, and master catechist certification. Level I, the Basic Program, includes ten sessions; five on Catechesis and the Principles of Teaching and five on Basic Doctrine. Level II, for the Experienced Catechist, includes modules of five sessions, each on Scripture,

Church, Sacraments, Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, and Advanced Methods. The Master Catechist level will require at least ten clock hours of instruction beyond Level II and at least one year as a catechist under the supervision of a director/coordinator of Religious Education.

The CERT Program is funded partly by diocesan subsidy and partly by registration fees — \$5 for a five-session series or a day-long workshop. Many parishes pay the fee for their volunteer teachers. Instructors are persons from all parts of the diocese who have expertise in education, theology, psychology, etc. Persons who are interested are welcome to register for these classes for Adult Education. For a schedule of the courses, watch for the calendar of events in this paper.

Elmira Catholic Schools Preparing for 900 Students

Elmira — The schools operated by the Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) are expecting 840 students next month, and, in addition, 60 children who the system hopes will join the regular curriculum in coming years.

The 60 will be participants in the system's pre-school programs which are beginning this year. The CCGEB has taken over operation of the successful program at Our Lady of Lourdes School, and begun new classes at its other elementaries, St. Casimir's and St. Mary's. Gail Callahan, school system business manager, noted that it is still possible to enroll in the program.

Mrs. Callahan also reported that there are 100 students registered for kindergarten

this year, up from previous years.

Preliminary figures indicate that St. Mary's will have 250 students, St. Casimir's 180, Lourdes, 200, and St. Patrick's Junior High, 210.

Sister Joan Cawley, outgoing junior high principal, noted that the students will have the art and Spanish electives again this year, and no significant changes in the

school's curriculum are planned.

Sister Patricia Carroll will begin her duties as junior high principal later this month. For the past few years, she taught at the junior high level at St. Paul's, Oswego; the school staffed as a mission by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Our Lady of Lourdes School also will have a new principal this year, Sister Karen Kendrick.

Mercy Adds Courses To Academic Curriculum

Our Lady of Mercy High School has an enrollment of 785 students, an increase in students according to school sources. New programs to the curriculum for these students are Introduction to Computer Science, Physiology and Microbiology, an Animal and Cell course.

Aside from its standard curriculum, Mercy also offers a program at BOCES for those students interested in vocational-occupational education. Also, as a participant in the Nazareth College Freshman Credit Program, Mercians are able to receive

college credit for English, French, Math, Biology, Chemistry and History.

The sports program fields both junior varsity and varsity teams in baseball, basketball, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and gymnastics.

Physical changes that will greet returning Mercians are new lockers and chairs in the cafeteria. They will also find that many departments are now located in different areas: the sewing room will be on the second floor which allows the

Physical Education Department a new room on the ground floor; the Foreign Language Department, previously on the second floor has been moved to E-wing; sports facilities have been expanded to allow more room for soccer and track.

Mercy welcomes to its faculty: Sister Joan Binnie, Guidance Department; Sister Diane Erskine, Guidance and Math; Ms. Rosanne Forward, English and French; Mrs. Margaret Henning, Social Studies; Sister Mary Jaecle who is returning to teach Math; Mrs. Deborah Jesmin, English; Sister Nancy Kelly, returning to the Physical Education Department; Sister Marion Rapp, Science; Miss Lori Rivers, French and Spanish; Mrs. Roslyn Rubin, French.

Elmira Schools Start COPE

According to a report, this September three schools in Elmira are offering a pre-school, a new program in the southern tier area, to four year olds. The new curriculum will be offered by the Chemung County Consolidated Catholic Schools which includes St. Mary's, southside; St. Casimir's and Our Lady of Lourdes. The program, COPE, is a pre-primary experience and will provide perceptual-motor activities to increase the child's sensory awareness. Also in the conceptual-language development emphasis will be placed upon vocabulary acquisition and the concepts of color, size and shape. Science activities will also be designed to help children explore and discover their environment. Other activities that will be provided are designed to prepare the child for a reading readiness program and mathematics.

Reservations for this program are still being accepted in each of the three schools.

New Project At St. Theodore's

Sister Janice Morgan, principal of St. Theodore's school, Gates, has announced that the school has received a special mini-grant from New York State for the 1980-81 school year. This grant is to be used to challenge the gifted students in the fourth through sixth grades. The project's goal is to assist these students in developing their full potential, and at the same time, to increase their enthusiasm for learning. This will be done through the use of media, kits, field trips, and teacher guidance.

The students will be tested in September, and those test scores along with previous SAT test results will determine the students who will be involved in the program. They will meet approximately three hours per week, and will be given a post-test in June. At that time they will fill out a questionnaire about their own level of success, and how this project affected their own preparation in future studies. The teachers involved will also evaluate this program to see if a change in

attitude, accuracy, and analysis in improved questioning techniques has occurred.

For the past several years, the New York State Education Department's Division of Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education General Program Planning has sponsored the Mini-Project Program. The source of funds has been the ESEA, Title IV-C. The program seeks to fund small innovative educational projects proposed by individuals to develop and implement promising educational approaches to educational problems.

It was in making education not only common to all, but in some sense compulsory on all, that the destiny of the free republics of America was practically settled. — James Russell Lowell

Ms. Cheryl Gillen, a graduate of Mercy and a French and Latin teacher at the school for nine years, has been appointed director of public relations.

Pre-School Opening In Waverly

Waverly — St. James School is opening a pre-school program this year. About 20 children will be participating in sessions either two or four days a week. Sister Anne Pfraug, St. James principal, reported.

The addition of the pre-school program follows the successful start of the school's kindergarten two years ago.

Enrollment is down slightly, Sister Anne said, and 110 students are expected in September at the school, which goes through the sixth grade.

The Lippincott reading program will go into the second grade this year, sister noted, progressing with the class pioneering the program.

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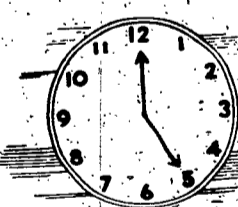
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