

'A New Beginning' Slated for Geneva Schools

Geneva — In January of 1980, the ministerial staffs of St. Francis and St. Stephen's parishes met to discuss the



Four students who will be affected by the redistribution of classes between St. Francis and St. Stephen's schools in Geneva got together recently to look over the plans for the year. Matthew Wooster, left, attended St. Francis School last year, where he'll be joined by Mary Kelly Sullivan for next year. Mary Kelly attended St. Stephen's last year. Their older sister and brother, Collie Wooster and Jim Sullivan, also are looking over plans for their classes at St. Stephen's. Collie attended St. Francis last year, while Jim will be continuing at St. Stephen's.

Diocese Names New Leaders in Ministry of Education

Sister Roberta Tierney, Director of Diocesan Education, has announced administrative position changes.

New principals and assistant principals are:

Brother Lawrence Backus, CSC, assistant principal, Cardinal Mooney, Rochester; Sister Mary Alice O'Brien and Kathleen Wisner, assistant principals, Our Lady of Mercy, Rochester; Mrs. Evelyn J. Kirst, Annunciation, Rochester; Sister Helen Lynch, RSM, St. James, Rochester; Sister Brian Madigan, SSJ, Holy Rosary, Rochester; Sister Sheila Connor, SSJ, Mother of Sorrows, Rochester; Thomas G. Bahr, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rochester; Sister Clare Francis Mogenhan, SSJ, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester; Sister Mary Clouser, SSJ, St. Theodore, Rochester; Sister St. Luke Hardy, SSJ, Director, St. Joseph Early Childhood Program, Rochester; Sister Boniface, OSBM, St. Peter and Paul, Auburn; Sister Mary Anne Laurer, SSJ, Nativity Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; Marilyn Dewey, St. Ann, Hornell; Sister Nancy Clark, SSJ, St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads.

The following will assume new positions as religious education administrators, coordinators and directors:

Mrs. Audrey Renna, Blessed Sacrament, Rochester; Sister Lillian Rutkoski, Holy Cross, Rochester; Mrs. Rose Boice, Holy Redeemer and St. Michael, Rochester; Sister Mary Bernarde Entress,

future of Catholic education in Geneva. Declining enrollment and rising costs made it evident that something had to happen to preserve Catholic education in this sector of the diocese.

The diocesan Education Department was informed of these concerns, and Sister Roberta Tierney began working with both parishes. Last summer, each parish set up a planning committee to work on a five-year projection in enrollment, staffing and finances. The results showed that some form of merger should take place.

In mid-January 1981, three proposals were presented to the parishioners of both parishes. One proposal was that the system remain as is; the second, that one building be used; the third, that two buildings be used with pre-K-5 in one and grades 6-8 in the other.

In late January, both parish councils voted to use two school buildings, with the lower grades at St. Francis and the upper grades at St. Stephen's. The councils felt that in choosing this system both parishes would be able to keep their schools, and parish identity would be maintained. Besides this, they felt that extra rooms would be available for enrichment programs and provide additional classroom space if

Growth

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of those councils. We realize the need for ongoing assistance to those elevated to positions which share in the collegial decisions in each parish.

Finally, we are committed to the design of an education board for our diocese. After study and research, the Diocesan Pastoral Council recommended this action. A committee has been appointed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark and has started the task to plan and design such a board.

Parallel to this we have encouraged the formation and function of education committees at the parish level. We have called our educational institutions to the challenge of long-range planning and practices of good management to assure quality programs.

The mission of religious education touches the lives of all our people. The responsibility for this mission is shared by all of us. We invite you to join us in carrying out this mission.

increased numbers warranted it. The March registration showed that people seemed to favor the two-building plan.

At this time an Interim School Board was formed, the primary function of which was to write a constitution and carry out the pertinent mechanics of the consolidation. A permanent board will be seated in the spring of 1982.

As September rolls around, the parishes are looking forward to their first year in the new system. Certainly, there will be some difficulties; however, the "new beginning"

looks promising and will provide the best possible educational program to the students in the St. Francis de Sales-St. Stephen's School System.

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