



Father Gordinier, Graff, and Father Wiant.

Parishes Try Unified Coordinator Programs

Cato — In an unusual move, three parishes in the region, St. Patrick's here, St. Thomas in Red Creek and St. Joseph in Weedsport, have mutually hired a single religious education coordinator.

According to Stephen Graff, the coordinator, "In the past, rural parishes, because of the limited financial resources of a small congregation, have relied on a volunteer coordinator and the pastor for religious education programs. This cooperative venture is not meant to replace the strong volunteer effort, but to give each parish the benefit of professional training and support."

Graff last week acknowledged that "although the project has only been in effect for a few months, several important lessons have been learned."

"First, that although the parishes are similar in profile, each one needs to have its own religious education committee and religious education program. The same activities, textbook series and the like do not meet the needs of each parish."

He said, "Strong volunteer leadership, both in teaching and in administration, is needed in each parish, otherwise the coordinator is so

tyed down in administrative details that he cannot contribute according to his training and the needs of all the parishes. Finally, a cluster of parishes can make possible a number of things an individual parish could not support."

Father William Gordinier, pastor of Cato and Red Creek, Father George Wiant, pastor in Weedsport, and Graff are maintaining notes on the venture and submit periodic updates to the pastoral center. At the end of the first year of the program, the three will offer the details to other parishes who wish to establish a similar program, Graff said.

CCGEB Pledges to Keep Four-School Arrangement

Elmira — The Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB) has pledged to keep all four of its buildings operating in the coming year.

The unanimous vote, ending discussions of building consolidation for 1982-83, came Dec. 10 following a detailed presentation from the board's Finance Committee, according to Martin Tracy, board president.

Curran Sekella, Finance Committee chairman,

presented information concerning the committee's deliberations, Tracy said, and the committee's recommendations, foremost of which was that no buildings be closed.

The board also approved goals for the coming year regarding efforts to hold down expenses, and what Tracy termed an "aggressive" drive to add 50 students to the system's enrollment. New efforts in fund-raising also will

be pursued.

The committee's recommendation followed consultations with the principals, pastors, parents and others, Tracy said. Despite declining enrollments, he commented, none of those groups pressured the board to close a school.

The board also discussed having diocesan school personnel provide the board with a training sometime in the future.

Yankees' Watson to Speak At Seneca Falls Banquet

Seneca Falls — Bob Watson, first baseman of the New York Yankees, will be the main speaker at St. Patrick's 17th annual Sports Banquet on Sunday, Jan. 10.

Watson began his pro career with the Houston Astros in 1965, and has since played with the Boston Red Sox before his current stint with the Yankees.

His accomplishments with the Astros include being named to the National League All-Star Team in 1973 and 1975, and a league record in 1978 for driving in a run in nine consecutive games. After being traded to the Red Sox in

1979, he hit for the cycle (single, double, triple, home) to become the first player to perform the feat in both leagues.

After signing with the Yankees as a free agent in November 1979, Watson led the Bronx Bombers with a .307 average in 1980, good for 10th best in the American League. His 68 runs batted in was third on the club, behind Reggie Jackson and Rick Cerone.

Tickets for the banquet are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children, and are available at St. Patrick's Rectory as well as



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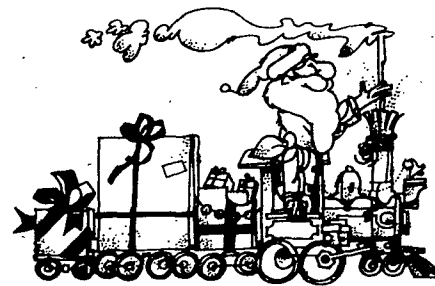
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