



# A TIME TO DECIDE

## Registration Info

Catholic Elementary Schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester will be holding registration during March. Classes range from pre-school through grade eight. Bus transportation is provided free by the school districts within 15 miles and a new law becomes effective this September which allows children who live beyond the 15 miles to be picked up at a central point designated by the school district.

Parents wishing to register children should present birth and baptismal certificates and immunization records. Those wishing further information should contact their parish school or the Diocesan Office of General Education at 328-3210.



## Invitation to Seek Opportunity

By Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND  
Director of General Education

Recently, we celebrated Catholic Schools' Week in our diocese in conjunction with the National Catholic Education Association. As part of our public relations for that week's celebration we often reminded people, "If you have not been in a Catholic School in the past four or five years, make a point to visit one this week." Once again we extend that invitation but for a different purpose.

During the month of March most of our elementary schools will be accepting applications for enrollment for the academic year 1982-83. One of the most important choices families make for the life and development of their children is a choice in education. We believe that next to the family the school is the greatest influence on the growth and development of young people. Many studies have been made on the national level asking the question, "Why do parents choose a particular school for their child?" We have adapted the study and conducted limited surveys in various parishes of our diocese. The results nationally and locally are the same. Parents tell us that they select Catholic schools first, for better education; second, for religious education and moral development; and third, for better discipline.

We believe that the Catholic schools in our diocese meet the criteria which have been outlined by parents. Our schools do provide quality education. Our test scores and percentage of students attending colleges and universities show that there is quality education taking place within our institutions. Personnel from our schools are constantly engaged in studying trends and programs that will affect the quality of the schools. We have introduced innovative programs for early childhood education, gifted and talented

students, computer education, metrification, and many others. At the same time we have always adhered to the fundamental teachings of skills in reading, writing and arithmetic.

In addition to quality Catholic education we also look to our schools to practice good management and planning. Involvement of parents and parishoners in helping to develop and maintain a controlled budget is essential. We urge all of our schools (whether parish or inter-parish) to have a policy-setting representative group working with the administration on school programs. We have urged our schools to develop a long-range plan for their future needs and programs. Once this plan is developed it is important that each school tell its story to the community in which it is located.

Education is expensive. Catholic school education is no exception to this statement. Our bishops have told us that Catholic schools are the most viable means of religious education available to young people today. The investment in this type of education is an investment in the future of our Church with potential to impact our community.

We are grateful to all who support the Catholic schools — parents, clergy, parishoners in general. We look for the ongoing support as we continue to offer quality Catholic education within our diocese. We invite parents to register their children in a Catholic school. For those who are interested in more information about the Catholic schools of our diocese, a slide-tape presentation, "Different Where it Counts," is available by calling our office at (716) 328-3210. For information specific to a particular school such as available transportation, school hours, lunch program, etc., it is advised that you call the local school principal.

## A Parent's View

By Michael Walker  
Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents

When I first contemplated writing an article on Catholic schools, I naturally thought of my own Catholic school experiences. My school days were many years ago and its surely was a different era. Catholic parents were expected to have their children in a Catholic school, and only in dire circumstances would one do otherwise. I was introduced to Catholic schools in a small Ohio town.

Two years later, the family moved to a smaller town which did not have a Catholic school. There were compensations, though. My grandmother had attended this public school, and I considered her the smartest woman I had ever known. Mind you, I'm not just saying that because she was my grandmother! My transition to this school was helped by the fact that my grandmother knew Clay, the janitor, who had been her classmate. If I was good, I might sometime ring the bell in that great old school. The bell resided in a bell tower and a small youngster could get a ride by hanging onto its ropes.

It was difficult when my parents were required to move again and I would have to change schools. My father made this move as exciting as possible by continually telling us stories of the huge city we were moving to. The city was so large that it featured 12 Catholic churches and, of course, 12 Catholic schools. It was here that I met Sister Linus, my fifth grade teacher. Sister said she took the name of St. Linus, the second pope, because she didn't think she deserved to be first. She quickly became first in my book.

I don't know what it was about that school, but it certainly made a lasting impression on me. It was large, old, and a thing of no great beauty. Maybe it had a homey look — it had crucifixes and cheery pictures on the walls as my parents had at home. I think love existed and was nourished there. Sister had an answer for everything. When we asked, "Why is it wrong to cheat in a game? After all, isn't it just another way to beat the competition?" — Sister wasn't afraid to mention that God was supposed to be at the center of our lives. A value system was being presented.

Thank you, dear reader, for permitting me this nostalgic trip back to old school days. I have experienced both Catholic and public schools. Both experiences have been good. The Catholic school provided a Christ-centered value system that could not be matched elsewhere. I see this in my own children's education. We attended Open House during Catholic Schools Week — we were delighted with what we saw.

In preparing this article, I wanted to get other parent's views, for perhaps I am biased. Some of the comments of these parents are as follows:

"A beautiful education in a Christian atmosphere."  
"Our value system is by far the greatest selling point."

Our society needs both public and non-public schools. Both need to be strengthened. Technology grows in our society and and the moral questions do not diminish.



# Catholic Schools Registration



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