

Parents Seek Way to Save School

By Joan M. Smith

Two facts were made clear last week. The Sisters of St. Joseph congregation of Rochester has not changed its position on closing St. Agnes High School in June, and the school building and convent have not been sold or leased. This left the door open for the St. Agnes

Concerned Parents Group to find ways of keeping the girls' school on East River Boulevard operable as a Catholic high school.

After two meetings last week — one on Tuesday, March 2, between

representatives of the concerned parents group and Sisters Jamesine Riley, superior general and Anne Guerin, St. Agnes principal, and a special media conference called by Sister Jamesine and John Schickler, chairman of the Concerned Parents Group Ways and Means Committee — the parents decided to go ahead with their aims. They met at St. Helen's Hall on Sunday, March 7.

Anything they do, we will be available for help in evaluating," she said last week, and added, "The exploration of alternatives will proceed quickly in order to facilitate the parents to come to a decision as soon as possible for the students' sake."

The decision to close St. Agnes was based on the declining enrollment and the increasing deficit in the

yearly operating budget. Regarding the latter, Sister Jamesine in a statement last Friday said that "in the past five years, the Sisters of St. Joseph have contributed almost a half million dollars from our general funds to this one school."

explained that during the decision-making period the state population trend was studied and it showed clearly, she said, that across the board the teenage population "isn't there."

St. Agnes hit a peak enrollment in 1968 with 867 students; its present enrollment is 360.

Concerning the drop in enrollment, Sister Kathleen

Cenacle Hosts Charismatics

A series of six "teachings" on the "Call to Holiness" is running 7:30-9:30 p.m. the Wednesdays of Lent at the Cenacle Renewal Center. The series is being sponsored by

diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

Further information is available by calling the renewal office at 436-6252.

Bishop to Thank Pro-Life Workers

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for diocesans who have supported the pro-life work of the Human Life Commission, particularly the past Respect Life Sunday and in trying to build support for

the Hatch Amendment.

The Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., April 2, at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua. A reception will follow the Mass in the church hall.

Pupils Among Dental Poster Winners

Three parochial school children are among seven area pupils named winners of a countywide poster contest in honor of National Children's Dental Health Month. Sponsored by the Monroe County Dental Society, the local contest was open to all in grades kindergarten through six in public, private or parochial schools in Monroe

County. Among the winners are Jennifer Burnham of St. Louis School, Pittsford; Karen Wintermute of Mother of Sorrows, Greece, and Christine Kluchko also of Mother of Sorrows.

More than 22 posters were submitted.

Right to Life Trip Planned to Albany

The Rochester Area Right to Life Committee will sponsor a bus trip April 6 to Albany to lobby for pro-life legislation.

return about 9 p.m. Anyone interested in joining the trip should contact Josephine Marciano at 621-2391 after 3 p.m.

The buses will leave Rochester at 6:30 a.m. and

Donations will be accepted the day of the trip.

Vatican U.N. Aide Held in Smuggling

New York (RNS) — Four men, including a Catholic priest attached to the Vatican staff of the United Nations, have been charged with smuggling stolen art treasures into the United States.

Father Lorenzo Zorza, 41, was arrested by U.S. Customs officials at the rectory of St. Agnes Church where he lived and did part-time pastoral work.

He was released on \$30,000 bail put up

by the Consolata Missionary Fathers, the order to which he belongs.

Two owners of a Manhattan importing firm and an art restorer also were arrested. The four were charged with illegally transporting stolen property, an offense carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. A Vatican press attache at the U.N. said Father Zorza was a volunteer (unpaid) member of the Vatican staff assigned to the economic affairs committee of the General Assembly.

Polish Fund: \$92,773

The fund to aid Poland has reached \$92,773, according to Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan missions director, who is coordinating the effort locally.

The pins are also available at St. Stanislaus Church, 34 St. Stanislaus St., Rochester, telephone 467-3068. Donations are accepted for the pins.

Father Reinhart said white and red Solidarity pins are still available from his office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, telephone 454-2926.

Anyone wishing to aid the Polish people through the fund may do so through Tribute to Poland Fund, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Talk Series Continues

St. Thomas the Apostle parish the second of a three-part series of talks by Father Robert F. McNamara, professor emeritus of St. Bernard's Seminary, at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, March 14 in the church hall.

Centuries." This week's segment is titled "Bishop McQuaid" and Father McNamara will discuss the years from 1863 to 1909. The final segment of the series is scheduled for Sunday, March 21 on "The Americanization of the Immigrant Church — For Better or Worse" and will cover the years from 1909 to the present. The public is invited.

The topic of the three-week series is "Catholics in Rochester: The Story of Three

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