

Teachers Are Key in Catholic Schools

My Dear People,

The cycle of our academic year soon will enter a new beginning. I believe the effectiveness and quality of the uniqueness of our Catholic educational programs is dependent upon the knowledge and witness of the men and women who teach in those programs.



Based upon this fundamental belief, I am encouraged by the policy which has been developed for the Continuing Education in Religion for our Catholic school teachers and our volunteer teachers in Religious Education. Our Education Division will be offering in-service opportunities for our catechists in over 150 locations during the first semester. The expansion of this program has been made possible by your

generous contribution in our Thanks Giving Appeal.

Next to parents, teachers have a tremendous influence over the formation and development of the young people whom they teach. The call to responsibility for a teacher is greater than academic knowledge and training. It is a call to ministry — a call to follow the example of the Master Teacher not merely in what one says, but in the way one lives. The role of the Catholic school teacher was specifically defined in the Vatican document "The Catholic School," as follows:

"By their witness and behavior teachers impart a distinctive character to Catholic schools. It is, therefore, indispensable to ensure their continuing formation through some form of suitable pastoral provision."

Our educational programs will be channels to help integrate culture and faith and learning with living only if

we have people who are truly committed to Christ. Men and women who have answered that call which Jesus gave to Peter when he said, "Do you love me?" And with Peter, they answer, "Yes, Lord, I do." These men and women will be able to integrate education through head and heart; that is, to translate knowledge into the love of Christ!

With every blessing for those serving in our educational ministry, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

†Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

Mercy

Our Lady of Mercy High School will welcome its 55th freshman class this fall. Overall, school spokespersons say, the enrollment remains stable with more than 830 students entering. "There has been a noted increase of new upperclassmen this year," Cheryl Gillen, public relations officer of the school, said.

A program of "Basic Christian Communities" will be in place this year for freshmen at Mercy. The phrase resembles the religious organizational device used throughout Latin America. The communities will meet twice a month.

Mercy's Christian Action Movement (CAM) and the Catholic Schools Mission Crusade (CSMC) have been incorporated into the Campus Ministry Board. As individual organizations they will no longer exist, rather the board will oversee such projects as Mission Day and the Christmas Christmas baskets.



Sister Judith Heberle, RSM, former superior general of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, has been named assistant principal for student personnel at Mercy High School. She joins Sister Mary Bonaventure, principal, and Miss Kathleen Wisner, assistant principal for academic concerns. For the past year, Sister Judith has worked as pastoral assistant at Blessed Sacrament Parish. Prior to that she served more than ten years as the head of her congregation.

On the Mercy sports scene, new bleachers have been added to the school's track and soccer field. Also, many new coaches have been signed up to upgrade the team efforts. Once again this year, swimming on the varsity and junior varsity levels will be offered. Students will use the pool at East High School for their practices through an agreement worked out with the City School District.

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