

A New School Year

By Sister M. Edwardine Weaver, RSM
Superintendent of Schools

A new school year is a time of new beginning... a time of goals and aspirations... a time of hope. This positive note is underscored by the fact that the nation's Catholic schools, which faced an uncertain future only a few years ago, are in the midst of a dramatic turnaround. Enrollments have stabilized in most areas of the United States and in some localities, there have been sharp increases. While supporters of Catholic schools continue to make tremendous financial commitments in terms of tuition payments, parish subsidies, and fund raising, current research has determined that attendance at Catholic schools makes a significant difference in the academic achievement as well as the religious practices and attitudes of American Catholics. The facts are there. The perceptions are changing. Schools are once again being seen as integral parts of the education mission of the Church.

To teach as Jesus did today is nothing less than an invitation to make message, community and service real experiences in the lives of students, and to do it in a fashion that recognizes the reality of accountability. We are fortunate to have had and to continue to have teachers whose lives, love and behavior bring the Good News of Christ to their students.

Hannah Arendt has said, "Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to

assume responsibility for it and by the same token save it from that ruin which, except for renewal, except for the coming of the new and the young, would be inevitable. And education, too, is where we decide whether we love our children enough to prepare them in advance for the task of renewing a common world."

So there are challenges — very real ones. But part of the good news of Catholic education is that challenges always have been with us and we always have answered them. Here in the Diocese of Rochester we welcome the challenge of another school year. We also look forward this year to witnessing the revision of the School Self Study tool, the implementation of our revised education in human sexuality guidelines, the revision of primary and intermediate grade religion guidelines, the completion of the evaluation of our standardized testing program, the increased use of computerization, and the expansion of cooperative purchasing. This school year will also experience the beginnings of a new Diocesan Board of Education for all religious education and the beginning of a continuing education in religion program for our teachers.

In addition, we continue to commit ourselves to the concept of long-range planning and the belief that "failure to plan is to plan to fail." A new staff position in the Department of Education will have as its primary focus development planning for individual schools and for the

school system. We have every reason for hope in confronting the challenges of educational ministry today. We face problems: so did those who came before us, and so will those who follow. But as Christians we are confident to ultimate success trusting not in ourselves, but in Jesus Christ, who is at once the inspiration, the content and the goal of Christian education. We welcome your interest, cooperation, and support and ask your prayers for all those who labor in the ministry of education in our diocese.

Tips to Ease The First Day At School

Parents can do a few simple things to make the first days at school go smoothly for their children. The National Education Association recently pointed out a few of them:

- Be sure the school has a record of the child's immunization record, completed medical forms and proof of age.
- Make certain the child can take care of basic personal needs, such as tying shoes, knowing the first and last names of parents, home address and telephone number, and how to use a bathroom.
- Make certain the child gets a good night's sleep and a good breakfast before the first day at school.
- Practice the best route to and from school or the bus stop.

Curricular Update

By Sister Janice Morgan, SSJ
The Rochester Diocesan Education Office has been diligently working on Curriculum Update, especially in the areas of health education and computer learning.

Over the past school year and on through the summer months, the office, in conjunction with the dioceses of Albany, Syracuse, Buffalo and Ogdensburg, has developed a new Health Guideline for grades K-8. This guideline will be used in all our schools beginning this Fall. In addition to the new guidelines, we will be offering in-service and consultative workshops in assisting teacher and administrators in their choice of correlated materials.

Much emphasis has been placed on the study and use of the computer in the classroom. In-service workshops (the hands-on approach), were offered diocesan teacher and administrators during the past year. These workshops dealt mainly with computer-motivated learning and how to implement it in the curriculum. This background information, along with "teleconferences," resource material and observation of computers in the classroom, has given us the impetus to launch a program for our schools.

Most of our schools have purchased two or three computers for student learning for the 1982-83 school year.

Our emphasis and goal throughout the year will be to implement curriculum scheduling, choice of course-

ware and/or software to correlate with the present state curriculum and texts we use in our schools. We hope to offer several Computer Motivated Learning (CML) workshops in Rochester and

the Finger Lakes and Southern Tier regions of the diocese to administrators and teachers. Our objective is to achieve value concepts in the use of these astonishing machines.

Early Bird Savings On Children's

Outerwear

Our Annual Early Bird Sale is Now In Progress!

Save 20%

Last season's outerwear at even greater savings!

Shop early and save on winter outerwear for boys to size 20, girls to teen sizes.



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Young Fashions

★ Infants Wear
★ Boys to size 20
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1467 Penfield Road
Open Monday-Friday 10-9, Saturday 10-6



cyo purpose

CYO seeks to foster a sense of community and self-worth among youth and interested adults in their search for a meaningful style of life based upon the teachings of Christ in the spirit of the Catholic faith.



youth employment

services

City youth who struggle with the problem of unemployment find help from CYO staff. Some qualify for jobs through CYO's CETA programs. Others can get pre-employment information and guidance from CYO's Youth Employment Specialists.

The CYO staff stresses education as important to job success. Contacts with a young person's school and home provide additional support, along with referrals to other services.

Call 454-2030 now. A Youth Employment Specialist is ready to help you.

job programs

Information about youth employment programs in Rochester and Monroe County is available through CYO's Resource Referral Network. Youth can call CYO JOB HELP (232-2420) and get a referral to the program best suited to their needs. Those working with youth can use the Network as a handy reference. Call 454-2030 now. Find out what the Resource Referral Network is offering to you.

info



training services

In CYO training programs youth and adults learn how to take charge, set goals, build a group, develop potential, find a job and much more.

CYO provides workshops for youth in leadership, self awareness, group development, organizational skills and employment readiness. Workshops for adults offer skills in planning, organizing, recruitment, group and leadership development.

CYO Training Specialists design each workshop to meet the specific needs of participants. Groups are using these training programs in schools, churches, neighborhood centers and other organizations.

Workshop fees are negotiated. Service is not denied because of an inability to pay.

Call 454-2030 now. Ask a Training Specialist to come and meet with you. Discover the new workshops available from CYO.

cyo is growing with youth

athletic services

Team members learn fair play and sportsmanship in the CYO basketball, cheerleading and softball programs. Volunteer coaches promote character development and Christian values as they work with youth in parishes and neighborhood centers.

The Summer Learn-to-Swim program teaches water safety to children aged 3-14. Certified instructors conduct classes for beginning and more advanced swimmers. Home owners in a variety of neighborhoods donate the use of their backyard pools.

Fees for athletic programs vary. Call 454-2030 for more information. Join the team; get in the swim with CYO.



for further information

on any cyo programs please contact the Catholic Youth Organization
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(716) 454-2030



An affiliate of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester.

