

# Our Catholic Schools, A Source of Pride

My dear people,

So much has been said and written these past months about the quality of education in our country:

- Is the curriculum watered down?
- Are there enough teaching hours in the school day?
- Are there enough school days in the year?
- Should teachers receive salaries based on merit?
- Are class sizes too small; too large? . . .

The questions continue and those who respond give answers supporting many varieties of thought. It seems to me that one of the basic questions is whether we, as a people, and each of us individually value education.

I believe that one of the greatest strengths of our Catholic school system is that it is valued and it is the deliberate choice of those who support it, those who minister within it and those who participate in its daily experience.

As we move to the threshold of a new school year, I wish to take the opportunity to express my pride in the accomplishments of our schools and my gratitude to all who make this service to our Church and country possible.

We are proud of our academic quality exhibited by national and state test results as well as college scholarships and career placements. Beyond the academic quality, we are proud of the faith commitment and service to community demonstrated by so many of our students and graduates.

I have been encouraged through my visits to our schools — both elementary and secondary. The care and concern which is evident for each other and for the less fortunate in our society and in our world is apparent. This atmosphere is beyond "book knowledge" and is a way of life developed through values firmly rooted in the Good News which is our heritage.

May we join together to continue to value our Catholic school system as a form of education centered in our faith and one that enables us to put that faith into daily living.

With every blessing, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*

Bishop of Rochester

## Choices and Challenges

By Sister Edwardine Weaver  
Superintendent of Schools

As we reflect on the beginning of another school year, the lines from Alexander Pope's Moral Essays come to mind. "Tis education forms the common mind: Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined." 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 teachers in our schools work with the mind and spirit of youngsters, always striving for long range goals; concern is not so much for "today" as for the "tomorrows." The influence of Catholic schools is not confined to those who attend them, they are a boon to all Catholics and to all Americans. With regard to all Americans, Dr. George Gallup, the pollster, recently wrote: "Catholic schools are

the last bastion of morality in America. If they are allowed to go bankrupt we will all lose." It is important to be mindful of these thoughts as we again open our school doors and strive to teach as Jesus did. . . making the gospel message, community and service real experiences in the lives of students. Here in the Diocese of Rochester we welcome the challenge of another school year.

We look forward this academic year to piloting the revised School Self Study Tool, the implementation of our revised grades 1-6 religion guidelines, the implementation of our revised standardized testing program, the expansion of Education to Justice programs, and the continued development of computerization. This school year will also experience the initial operations of the new Diocesan Board of Education for all forms of religious education. In addition, we continue to commit ourselves to the concept of long range planning and to assist local school communities in this endeavor.

In the past 15 years, Catholic schools have witnessed a period of substantial change. Although schools closed and enrollments declined, their predicted demise



SISTER EDWARDINE

in America has not taken place. The 1981 research findings of James Coleman and of Andrew Greeley a year later, mark the present age as perhaps the brightest period for Catholic schools. Public recognition and research documentation has never been more positive about these outcomes. It is heartening to know that research confirms what practitioners have felt all along — Catholic schools offer valuable educational opportunities to their communities. We welcome you to investigate our present efforts in this valuable church ministry and thank those who by their dedicated efforts and sacrifices have enabled the continued development of this noble effort.

## Elementary School Principals Named

Sister Edwardine Weaver, director of the diocesan Department of General Education recently released a list of this year's appointments to the office of principal in several elementary schools.

Sister Stephanie Riley, SSJ, has been named principal of the school at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Miss

Charlotte Nowotny has been appointed to the post at Christ the King in Irondequoit. Mrs. Margie Marsh was named principal at Holy Ghost in Coldwater.

Miss Mary E. Caffrey is new principal at Holy Trinity in Webster. Robert Edelman was named to St. Anne, Rochester. Sister Marilyn Reeves, SSJ, has been named principal at St. John the Evangelist in Greece.

Sister Barbara Hamm, RSM, will take the post of principal at St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street. Sister Miriam Nugent is the new principal at St. Louis in Pittsford. Sister Dorothy Meisenzahl, SSJ, has been named to St. Mary in Auburn.

Miss Constance Dunn will head St. Mary Regional School in Elmira. Sister Mary Wintish, RSM, will become principal at St. Patrick in Owego.

Sister Katherine Ann Rappl, RSM, has been named principal at St. Rita, West Webster. Sister Sheila Lubber, SSJ, is new principal at St. Stanislaus, Rochester.

Sister Agatha Marie Croft, ASC, has been named principal at Most Precious Blood. Sister Roseanne, a Franciscan sister of St. Joseph, will take the post at St. Hyacinth, Auburn.

## ND Council Meets Aug. 22

Elmira — "Rise above the ordinary," is the theme which has been chosen by the Notre Dame High School Student Council officers for the coming school year. Student council president Marty Lenz and his fellow officers Rich Buchanan, Vince Santoro and Tricia Mack have organized a council workshop for Aug. 22. Members of the council will hear a keynote speech from Lenz and will watch a video presentation on decision-making.

Council moderator, Vincent Moschetti, sees the presentation as a help to student leaders who need to make choices and solve many school related problems.

The council wants to make the organization a vital influence on student life and plans to work closely with students, faculty and administration.

## DeSales Grads Get Awards From Gannett

Geneva — Two graduates of DeSales Regional High School here were among the 169 recipients of the "Youth Cares" Award presented earlier this Summer by Gannett Rochester Newspapers.

The two, Andy Pacitto, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ceasar Pacitto, and Patty Schibley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Schibley were recognized for their volunteer service to their school and community over a period of years.

## AQUINAS Institute

Conducted by the Basilian Fathers



### SERVING THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE FOR OVER 77 YEARS

All Eighth Grade Boys, Girls and Parents Invited  
Open House: October 25  
7 to 9 p.m.

Entrance Exam: January 7, 1984  
MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
Celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14  
AQUINAS INSTITUTE  
1127 Dewey Avenue,  
Rochester, New York 14613  
254-2020

WHAT LIES BEHIND US  
AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US  
ARE TINY MATTERS  
COMPARED TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

~ Mercy High School WELCOMES the classes of 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987 with this year's school theme ~ chosen by our student officers.



Our Lady of Mercy High School

1437 Blossom Rd. • Rochester, N.Y. 14610 • 288-7120

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