

# Catholic Education/Quality Product

By Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND  
Director of Education

The Catholic school system in the United States is the largest non-governmental educational system in existence. It is a system that has been built and developed by dedication and sacrifices of many of our predecessors who left their homeland to come to the United States seeking freedom. The freedom of choice in education was one of the important gifts which they sought to preserve.

Our Catholic schools of the 80s have a clear mandate to be educational institutions which develop and foster a strong faith life and sense of community among our people. The dedication of the men and women serving in the schools as well as the sacrifice of parents and parishioners to continue the funding of the schools helps to make this possible. Yet the reality of the struggle continues in that the cost of education continues to increase and the financial resources of many of our people are being stretched due to the economic milieu in which we live.

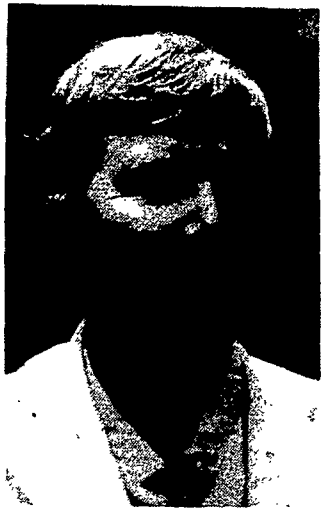
Last August, the State Education Department announced that approximately \$11.3 billion would be spent on public education within the state during the 1982-83 academic year. They estimated that the average cost per pupil would be \$4,106. The revenue for the support of public education is obtained through taxes. The approximate formula is the 45 percent comes from local taxes such as property and sales tax; 40 percent from state taxes and approximately 5 percent from federal programs.

Within the Diocese of Rochester, more than 25,000 young people — Catholic and non-Catholic — receive a verified quality education at less than ten percent of the cost which would be required for those same students in a public institution. Children who attend non-public schools receive some benefits directly from state funding. The benefits received include transportation, textbooks, and some health services. These are services which are provided directly to the students. These are minimal compared to the contribution made by the Catholic schools to the community at large and to the development of the teaching mission of the Church.

Other than the limited services received through state and federal programs,

## Mercy Changes

Sister Judith Heberle, new principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School, recently announced new faculty members: Mrs. Linda Siembor, guidance counselor; John Ianni, chemistry; Mrs. Katherine Marx, chemistry; Mrs. Ann Chandler, home economics; Mrs. Marsha Rosenthal, mathematics; Annette Iovoli, business; Joan Kelly, physical education; and Joseph Scotto, English



SISTER ROBERTA

the cost of Catholic school education is financed by tuition, the parish or the institution.

During the 1982-83 academic year the average tuition for elementary education was \$455 per family. The average cost per pupil was \$850. At the secondary level within our diocese, the average tuition was \$1,100 and the average cost per pupil was \$1,833.

Even though these costs are significantly lower than that of public education, we realize the sacrifice involved by those supporting Catholic education and that they are also supporters of the public school system through taxes.

We believe that parents whose children are currently attending Catholic schools should carry a certain percentage of the financing of those schools through a tuition program. We also realize that it is not possible for them to carry the full cost and therefore we turn to the larger Catholic community to

continue to support this viable ministry of the church.

"For our part, as bishops, we affirm our conviction that Catholic schools which realize the threefold purpose of Christian education — to teach doctrine, to build community, and to serve — are the most effective means available to the Church for the education of children and young people who thus may 'grow into manhood according to the mature measure of Christ.'" (Christian Education, 2; cf. Ephesians, 4:13) We call upon all members of the Catholic community to do everything in their power to maintain and strengthen Catholic schools which embrace the threefold purpose of Christian education."

### — To Teach as Jesus Did.


The continuation of a strong Catholic school system requires the support and dedication of the total community. The formula which we recommend to parishes as they develop budgets for Catholic schools is the parents support/tuition should represent approximately 40 percent of the cost; parish subsidy (obtained from the parish in which the school is located and parishes where children attend the school) another 40 percent and the remaining 20 percent should be obtained through fund raising activities relating to the school or outside sources such as donations, bequests or grants. Many of our parishes are working toward a realistic implementation of this formula.

We believe that Catholic schools should be accessible

to all of our people even if they are not economically able to afford this form of education. Therefore, we have some assistance for families who are in need through the Diocesan Tuition Subsidy

Program as well as subsidy provided at the local parish or school. Each year we are frustrated to see the number of valid applications increase and the funds available not able to meet the needs. The

need is apparent; the amount of funds necessary to satisfy that need remain inadequate. We continue to strive to reach the goal that no child is denied a Catholic education due to financial inability.

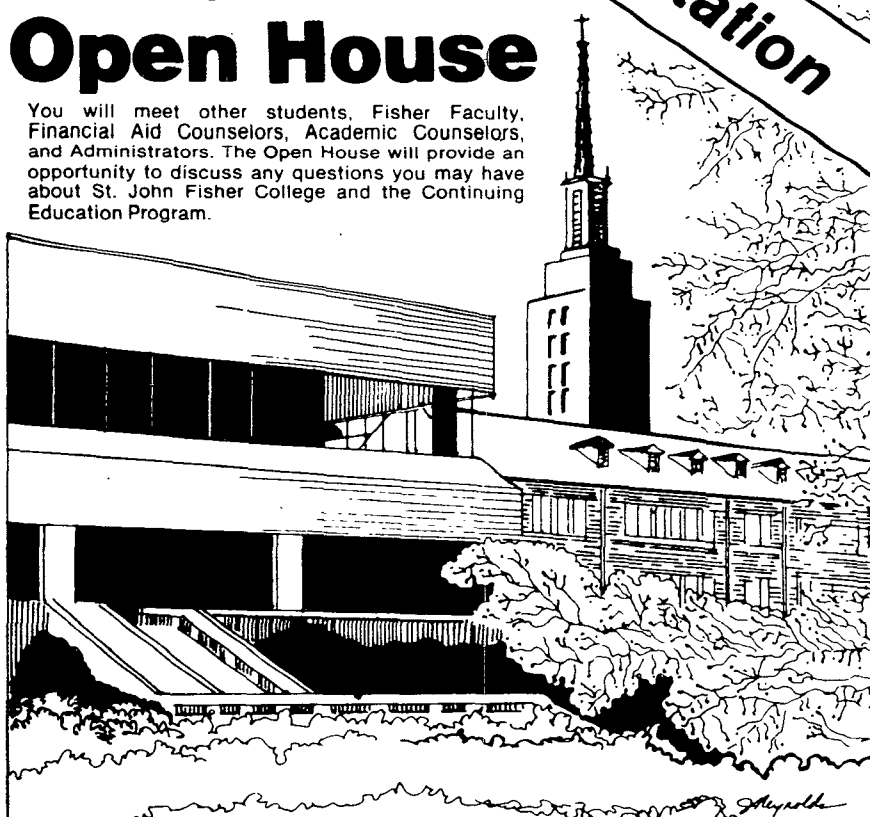


St. John Fisher College  
Rochester, New York

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# Continuing Education Open House

You will meet other students, Fisher Faculty, Financial Aid Counselors, Academic Counselors, and Administrators. The Open House will provide an opportunity to discuss any questions you may have about St. John Fisher College and the Continuing Education Program.



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