

New School Self-Study Ready for Launching

By Sister Janice Morgan, SSJ
The diocesan Education Office will launch a new school self-study in September.

A committee of 14 has worked on this study for the past two years. After much research, this evaluation tool has been developed to assist the faculties of Catholic elementary schools and the entire school community to respond to the continuous improvement toward excellence.

It includes: 1. self-study; 2. planning; 3. evaluation team; 4. followup, and 5. resources.

An effective school is one whose teachers know its purpose and use all available means to realize it. This knowledge of purpose constitutes the philosophy. The first phase of self-study is the development of a written expression of the philosophy of the school. Through the cooperative effort of the total school staff, a comprehensive philosophy is formulated which will give direction and purpose to the educational process. Evaluative pro-

cedures to determine the extent to which the school program is achieving the aims specified in the philosophy is an important aspect of the program.

The self-evaluation portion of this tool flows from the goals stated by the community itself in its philosophy. This study is governed by an internal focus and embraces the entire educational environment. The visiting evaluative team assesses and verifies the school's own self-study in the light of its stated goals and operation, noting overall strengths and weaknesses.

Another aspect of the program is its value in assisting long-range planning for Catholic elementary education at the parish level. We strongly believe that "failure to plan is to plan to fail," and highly endorse good planning in assuring a stable future.

The two most unusual features of this study are 1. an evaluation team will visit

the school after the written study has been completed and report on its observations; 2. the study will extend over a period of seven years, with updating and planning.

Five diocesan schools will pilot the study during the 1983-84 school year, before its full diocesan implementa-

tion in September 1984. They are St. Philip Neri; St. Andrew; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. John of Rochester, Fairport.

The General Education Office will assist in the study and its followup activities

resulting from the evaluation same time the continuous completion. We look forward to renewal and at the excellence our Catholic schools produce.



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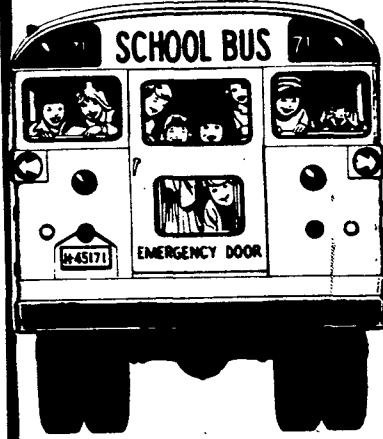
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R.T. French Honors Area Graduates

Four graduates of Catholic high schools were recently honored by the R.T. French Co. The four are Susan Burkovich, Our Lady of Mercy High School; Kim M. Reeves, Nazareth Academy; Carla Mattioli, Bishop Kearney High School; and Julie Philippone, Cardinal Mooney High School.

Each student received a \$50 United States Savings Bond and an engraved piece of jewelry from French's, which each year recognizes outstanding achievement by high schoolers in the Rochester area and in other cities where it maintains manufacturing locations.

The recipients of the annual award are selected by the school faculty on the basis of interest and ability in home economics, overall scholastic ability and traits of character and citizenship.

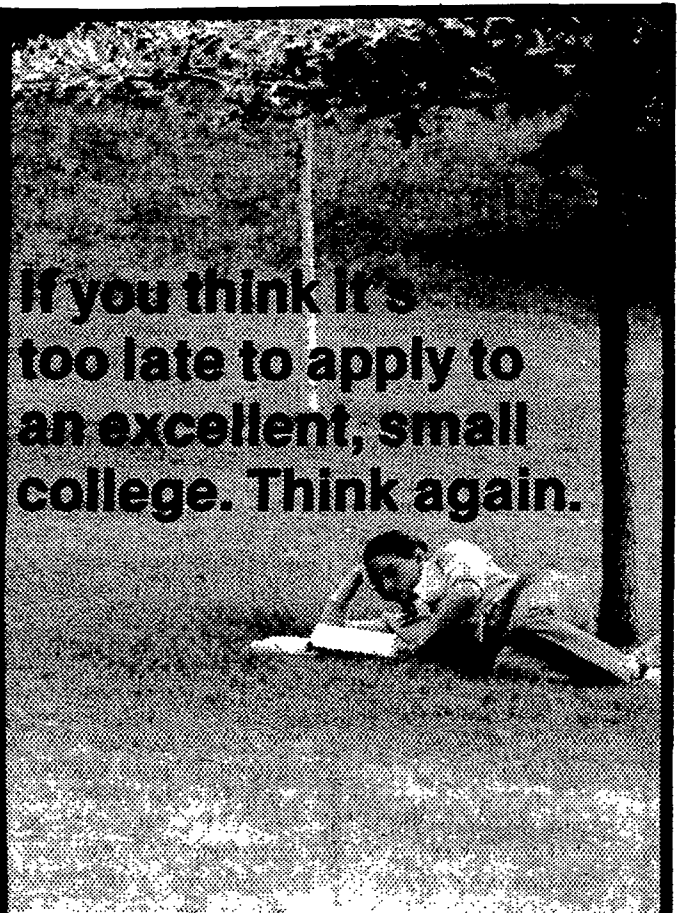
McQuaid Changes

Father John Carriero, SJ, on sabbatical at the University of San Diego, will return to McQuaid Jesuit High School and his freshman counselor position, a role he played for 17 years before his sabbatical. Father John Kelly, SJ, will counsel eighth graders and some sophomores. Father Damian A. O'Connell, SJ, has joined the faculty as teacher of English and mathematics. He recently returned to the New York Province after five years as a missionary with the South Dakota Indians, with whom he built a church, and among whom he trained permanent deacons.

CAM Theme

"What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters, compared to what lies within us," a phrase by Ralph Waldo Emerson, is the theme chosen by the Christian Action Movement of officers at Our Lady of Mercy High School. Laura Alvut is president of the organization.

"To spend too much time in study is sloth" -- Francis Bacon.



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