

'We call to our Catholic Schools to be that beacon; to be that light which leads all to God'



My Dear People

We will join with thousands of people across our nation to celebrate Catholic Schools' Week from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 of this year. We are a culture and a nation that responds to symbols and images in our celebrations and daily life. The theme, "Catholic Schools - Beacon of Hope" provides many symbols and analogies for our reflection on the meaning of this week.

We can think of the many ships saved from the unending blackness of the stormy seas by the beacon of a lighthouse in the distance. We remember the image of the immigrants coming to our country looking with hope to the beacon held high by our symbol of liberty and freedom in the harbor of New York. These symbols of light gave life and hope to many.

We call to our Catholic Schools to be that beacon; to be that light which leads all to God. Through the education programs and through the development of a true faith community, the mission of our schools is

to become that light of knowledge and that light of faith to encourage our students, faculties and parents to become a beacon to proclaim the glory of God to all.

I wish to take this opportunity to join in the celebration of the gift of Catholic Schools to our church and to our country. I am grateful to the dedication and service which has been given by hundreds of women and men in our diocese to the mission of Catholic Education. My prayer is that they continue to accept the challenge to provide the light on the way of the journey to God for so many.

With every blessing, I remain

Your brother in Christ

Matthew Herak

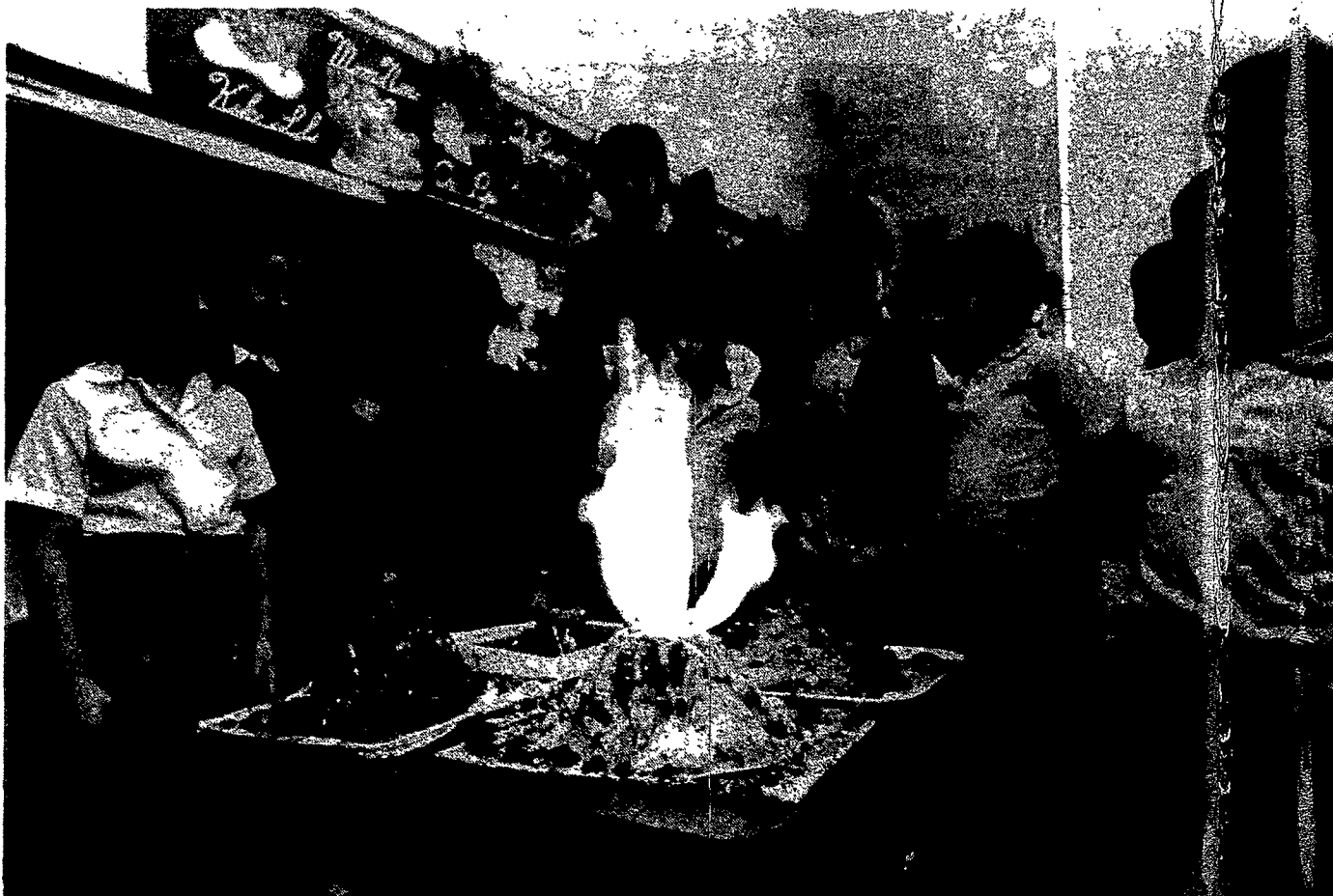
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

OBSERVES

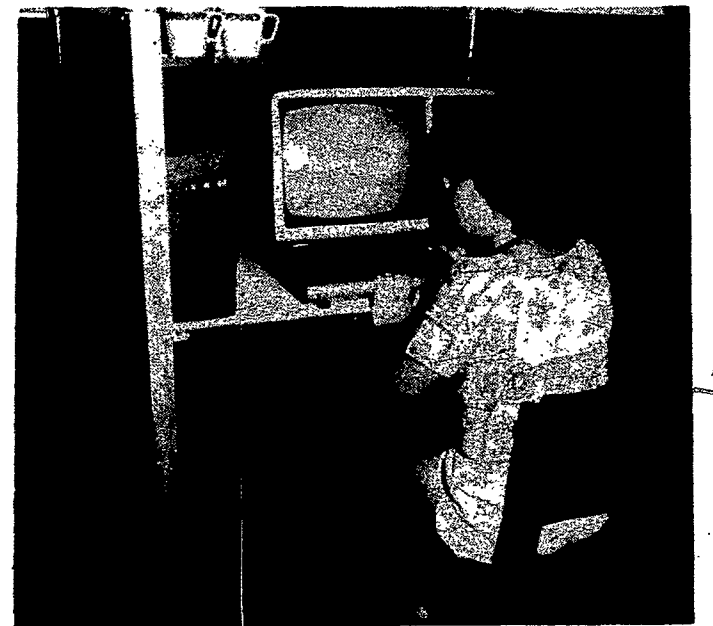
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AS BEACONS OF HOPE



St. Stanislaus' Sister Marie Dominic works with pupils in reading and English classes and helps bridge the gap between Polish and English.



St. Anne's School has a variety of cultural background. During this school year students who have lived in Mexico and South Africa are attending the school. There are also students whose parents or grandparents came to this country from China, Vietnam, India, and Thailand. Here a class watches a science demonstration of the hows and whys of a volcano eruption.



The age of computers at St. Patrick's, Elmira.