

"Tell Our Story"

By Sr. Edwardine Weaver, RSM
Superintendent of Diocesan Schools



Catholic schools have traditionally shared a dedication to excellence and have taken justifiable pride in their contributions to the Church and to American education. However, recognition and clear understanding of these efforts beyond the direct participants is often limited. In a world dominated by expanded methods of communication, we have recognized a need to more effectively "tell our story" as it exists today.

This monthly opportunity to communicate through the Courier-Journal provides an opportunity to showcase the vision, accomplishments and current practices of our elementary schools. I enthusiastically endorse the use of this vehicle in assisting members of the elementary school community in their desire to more effectively share the good news of our story. A story that continues to unfold because of the sacrifices and dedication of many unsung heroes and heroines. We hope this effort is informational to you and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Holy Year Celebration

St. James School has made an ordinary year extraordinary by answering Pope John Paul II's call to celebrate the Holy Year.

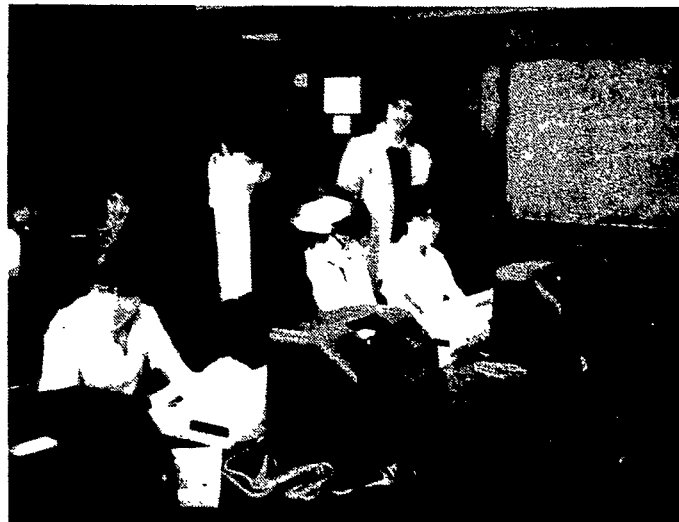
In September, the pupils celebrated the Triumph of the Cross. Lessons were given prior to this on the various types of crosses throughout history. Each child made a cross of his/her choice and presented it at the altar during the Veneration Service on Sept. 14.

In October, the sixth grade wrote and presented a play to the school in honor of Our Lady of Fatima.

In November, on Bishop Matthew H. Clark Day, St. James pupils made a pilgrimage by bus to the Dominican Monastery in Elmira, N. Y., the designated Holy Year

Center. The rosary was recited on the way. The pupils, led by a cross-bearer, proceeded to the monastery, where a special Holy Year service was held. All received the Jubilee indulgence. The pupils wrote letters to Bishop Clark about their trip and shared their thoughts and experiences with him. Later in the month, in honor of John F. Kennedy, the pupils planted spring bulbs in the school lawn, symbolizing reconciliation among all people.

In December, the school celebrated the World Day of Peace with a special Mass. Each day throughout the school year the Holy Year Prayer is recited aloud by the student body at the noon prayer service.



St. Ambrose Apples

Students have always brought apples for the teacher. They still do at St. Ambrose but in a large, airy and recently renovated room in the school's annex, "apples" are being brought to the students by a group of parents: all of them volunteers. These "apples" don't grow on trees! They are the newly installed computers and terminals - a dozen in all - on which every student in the seventh and eighth grades will have completed a computer literacy course by the end of the year. This instructional program was developed and coordinated by

Christie Mustico, resource room teacher, and Jean Massare and June Ricci, parent volunteers. They are parents teaching parents to teach. Classes have been conducted for 20 parent/learners who now are sharing their skills with the students on a one-to-one basis.

In addition to the formal classes for the students, parent volunteers also staff the computer room in the afternoons to allow students who have completed the introductory course to work independently.

Winners

Kathy Klim, Lynne McNeilis and Dawn Ebertz of St. Pius Tenth School received awards from the

Monroe County Firefighters Association for their entries in the annual Monroe County Firefighters Essay Contest.

International Night

First prize ribbons for projects were received by the following Good Shepherd School pupils: Mike Biondolillo, Tom Fogarty and Keith Vanderzell, The Alamo; Andy Schmidt and Bill Young, Bilandia (an imaginary country); Jody

Mathews and Nicole Sica, the Incas; Adam Dietterick and Robert Janczak, Thomas Jefferson; Christy Dumont and Bernadette Schicker, Swedish Industrial Arts; Julie Hartenstein, Richard Buck and Julie Buck, Women Together.

Computer Literacy

Students in our diocesan elementary schools are eager to spend time with society's newest electronic wizard...the microcomputer. How best to utilize this education tool can be perplexing for teachers.

Sister Janice Morgan, assistant superintendent for Curriculum has convened a committee of diocesan classroom teachers to prepare a computer literacy curriculum guide for use in grades K

through eight. The committee consists of nine teachers. They are: Janet Genthner, Kathy Taylor, Patricia Sykes, Sr. Sheila Marie Miller, Eileen Desormeaux, Carol Saun, Mary Segerson, Sharon Krause and Jean McBrien. The committee has set objectives and a timeline for their work over the next seven months. Administrators and teachers can look forward to the completion of this guide for use beginning in Sept. 1984.

Peter Pan Scheduled

The Most Precious Blood Players will present their second annual play in April. This year's musical production of Peter Pan will take the audience on an adventure to Never Land; a magical

spot where Indians, lost boys, fairies, wicked pirates and crocodiles live.

The play is under the direction of Mrs. Phyllis Herscha and other members of the

EXPRESSLY ELEMENTARY

Diocesan Board of Education

By Joan Countryman
One year ago the Board of Education of the Rochester Diocese officially met for the first time. The board was established by Bishop Matthew H. Clark as consultative to him and to the Division of Education. One of its main functions is to examine needs and set priorities for all educational ministries in the diocese. The Board of Education consists of 15 members who achieve their goals through consensus. This requires a mutually respectful atmosphere in which each member can share his or her own insights and listen to those of others. Working under this concept, the board has begun review of several areas of the religious education in our diocese.

The Division of Education encompasses all areas of religious education such as the Department of General Education, the Department of Continuing Education, Youth Ministry, the Department of Religious Education. Since all people share in the responsibility of the teaching mission of the Church, I pass onto you this suggestion - if you have concerns, questions or needs, please call the Division of Education Office. If you would like to meet with any of the Board of Education members, this too can be arranged. The Board of Education cannot work in isolation. We need to hear your thoughts so that we can meet your needs.



Collection Pay-off

A coin club, where students learn the history and grading of coins, meets at 2:30 p.m. on Fridays at St. Thomas More School. Starting from left in front is Jay Romeyn, president, Tim Strakosh, Robert Culp, Larry Jones, Douglas Kirst, moderator, and Tom Ward.

Future Planning Is Helpful to School

The long-range planning committee of St. Ann School, Hornell, has been diligently conducting research and discussing recommendations for the future. The committee of seven represents parents, faculty and school board. The principal acts as consultant. Using a format developed by the diocesan Department of General Education, the committee is involved in the areas of

enrollment, staffing, curriculum, building and finances. Results of the study and committee proposals will be presented to the St. Ann School Board in March, for its deliberation and action.

The St. Ann School Long-Range Planning Committee urges other schools not yet involved in such a study to consider implementation of the well-organized in-depth materials available from the diocese.



Amen to Peace

Students and faculty at Holy Trinity School demonstrated their recognition of the diocesan day of "Prayer for Peace" Dec. 15. The day included a procession as a symbol of the spreading of peace throughout the world, and a prayer service developed through slides and music by Sister Mary Dorothy Burnett. Parents were invited to come and pray with the pupils some of whom decided to eat a "no frills" lunch. Also, there were bulletin board displays around the theme of peace, and the pupils wrote letters to Congress calling for peace.

A Parents View

By Jean Gilbert
President
Rochester Federation
Of Catholic School
Parents

Once the commitment to Catholic education is made the responsibility of parent involvement is also accepted. Education today is a partnership. Home and school must develop a strong relationship with each other. Home and school associations and school boards are both important arms of education and it is the blending of talents and leadership that makes our schools "different where it counts."

Parents who are on school boards can have direct input into setting school policy and developing the school budget. Parents involved in home/school organizations are active in fund raising, coordinating volunteer programs, planning information and educational meetings for parents, and many other social and supportive activities which help bring home and school closer together. We look at parent involvement at the diocesan and local level of education through the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents as an important arm of the Catholic school mission.

The purpose of the Parent Federation is to provide Catholic school parents with the information they need to participate effectively in the decision-making process of their schools. To keep you informed, we publish a newsletter that is distributed by our network of liaisons in each school.

Anyone wishing for more information about the Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents can call or write Jean Gilbert, 1040 North Greece Road, Rochester, N. Y., 14626; telephone 225-2714.