

Searching for the Future Of Our Catholic Schools

My dear people,

Once again we are at the threshold of a new academic year. It may seem a contradiction, that as I look forward, my reflections of the past are very strong. I am reminded of the graduations which I attended last June. I had the opportunity and privilege of participating in the commencement ceremonies for our eight secondary Catholic schools.

I was most impressed with the addresses which were given by the graduates themselves. Their words of gratitude, challenge and hope summed up the mission of our Catholic schools. They also served as a reminder of the many dedicated people that make Catholic education possible.

We are living in a society that is rapidly changing. It is important that our educational system continue to prepare young people to meet these changes and to be firm in their faith and values.

It is also important that our system be one that is accountable for the many resources it uses.

For over five years our Division of Education has called our schools to planning for the future. Personnel from our Education Division, Urban Services Division and Office of Pastoral Planning and Management have given many direct services to our schools as they move toward a realistic look to the future.

I strongly endorse this planning process and will ask that our consultative bodies review the guidelines which we have been using for this purpose. We must take a thorough look at our enrollments, faculties, programs, buildings and finances if we are going to be faithful stewards.

May we all unite to accept this responsibility and to plan a future that will provide quality Catholic education within our diocese. With every blessing I remain

Your brother in Christ,



Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

Principals Assigned

New principal placements this year in the elementary schools include:

In Monroe County, Sister Blanche Leising, SSND, St. Boniface; Sister Helen Lynch, RSM, Good Shepherd; Sister Theresa Ruddy, RSM, St. James; Mrs. Gaynelle Wethers, St. Monica; Sister Kathleen

Lurz, SSJ, St. Thomas More. In Chemung County, Sister Mary Maywalt, SSJ, Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira.

In Steuben County, Sister Dolores Ann Stein, RSM, St. Ann's, Hornell.

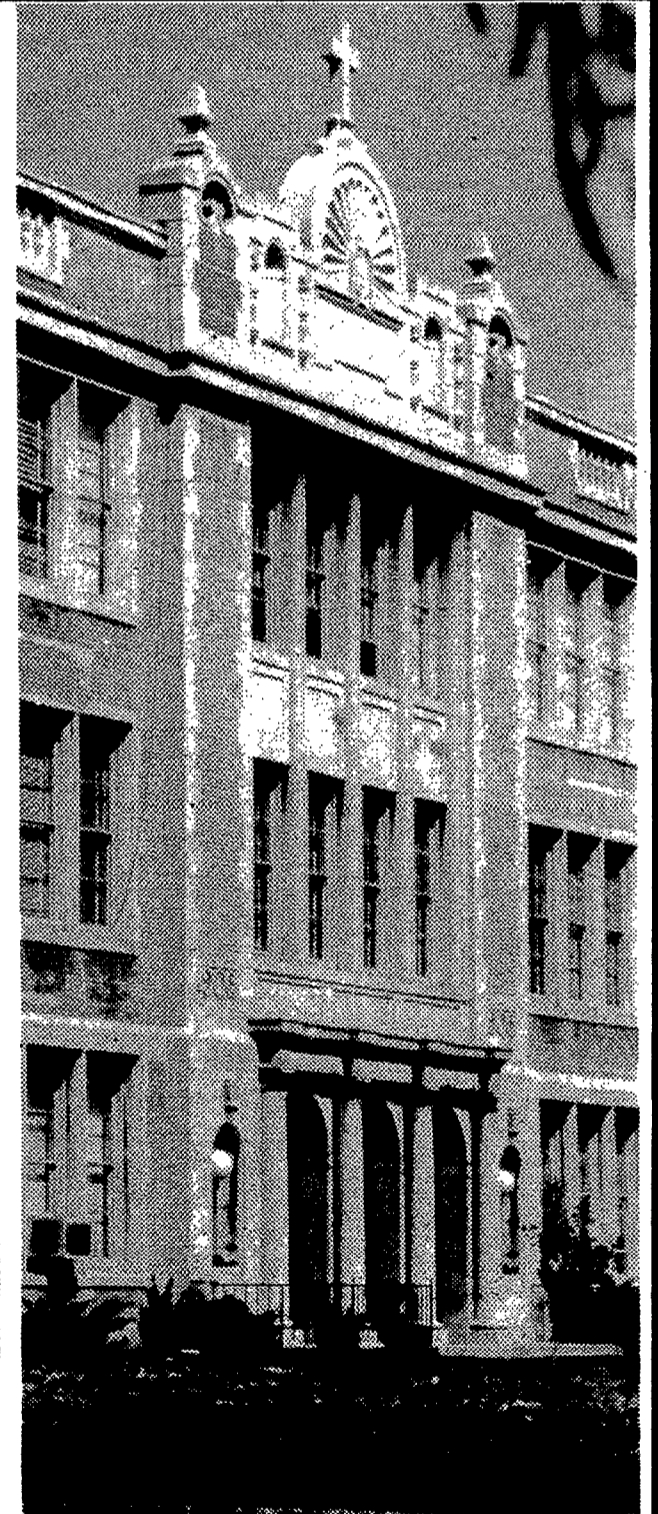
In Yates County, Sister Catherine Gibbons, SSJ, St. Michael's, Penn Yan.



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What's in a Name? An Expanded Vision!

By Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND

This year the Division of Education printed a monograph entitled Christian Formation Committees. This booklet was distributed to all our parishes as a replacement for the section in the current Parish Ministry Guidelines for Parish Councils, for Education Committees.

The change of name from education committees to Christian formation committees was an important decision that involved much dialogue with personnel serving in parishes and in diocesan programs. We believe that the present title of Christian formation committees better identifies the mission of those committees to be concerned with and to plan for a total lifetime formation of our people through educational experiences.

The Christian formation committee is a sub-committee of the parish council and serves the council by providing opportunities for the teaching mission of the Church. Decisions are made according to the principle of subsidiarity, that is, they are made at the level at which they can be implemented.

Decisions which need broader parish involvement for implementation are taken as proposals to the parish council.

The Church teaches in order to prepare its members to accept and proclaim the Gospel message and to translate that message into action. All educational efforts of the Church must encompass the twin purposes of personal holiness and social reform in the light of Gospel values. Through leadership and program development, the Christian formation committee insures that the parish provides all its members with the religious training opportunities aimed at fostering personal faith and expressing that faith through service.

Because of the complex and extended nature of the teaching mission of the Church, it is often necessary to give responsibilities for specific programs to other sub-committees of the Christian formation committee.

Therefore, it is common at many of our parishes to have separate committees for policy and programs for the Catholic school (sometimes referred to as the school board); other committees deal directly with the religion programs for school-aged

children in public schools; and another group may provide for adult education, family education or special education.

The goals and priorities of all of these programs are coordinated through the Christian formation committee. This central committee is also responsible for the coordination of budgets which are developed in conjunction with the finance committee.

The reality of this model of collegial decision-making involving parish leadership and laity is made possible through the cooperative efforts and commitment of many in the parish community. We believe that this type



SISTER ROBERTA

of leadership and decision-making helps to give vision and strength to our educational programs. We are grateful to the many people who have answered that call on diocesan and parish levels, making it possible to continue that direct command — "Go teach all nations!"



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Aid Payments Total More than \$775,000

By James G. McAuliffe

Chapter 507 of the Laws of 1974 provides for the apportionment of state funds to qualifying nonpublic schools for the reimbursement of the actual costs of services incurred in meeting mandates which are required by law in connection with testing, evaluating and reporting.

Specific reimbursement areas for the 75 diocesan elementary schools include attendance reporting, pupil evaluation programs, test score reporting, basic educational data systems reporting, preliminary and regents

competency test reporting.

In addition, the diocesan high schools receive mandated service aid for regents examination reporting, regents scholarship reporting and registration of high schools reporting.

On or before April 1 of this year, our diocesan elementary schools received a total of \$502,229 for the state aid year 1982-83. Our eight diocesan high schools received \$273,394 to bring the diocesan total of mandates service funds paid this year to exactly \$775,623.