

Sibley's

BACK-TO-SCHOOL BASICS

Girls 7-14

\$16

Acrylic cardigan sweater

\$10

Button-down poly/cotton blouse

13.99

Navy, grey, or plaid skirt

2.75

Trimfit orlon socks



Girls 4-6X

11.99

Cable knit cardigan sweater

9.99

Ruffle collar blouse

11.99

Kilt skirt

Boys 8-14

11.99

Acrylic crewneck sweater

\$14

Oxford shirt in assorted colors

12.99

Belted twill pants

Children's, Second Floor Downtown and all suburban stores



Catholic schools prepare students for 21st century

By Sister M. Edwardine Weaver
Superintendent of Schools

In recent years, we have heard such pessimistic statements as: "Catholic schools are closing and soon will be only for the elite." "It's impossible for Catholic schools to continue because public schools offer higher salaries and better facilities." "School expenses are going up so quickly that parishes are considering whether a Catholic school is such a good idea." "Shouldn't we just admit that Catholic schools were a good idea once upon a time, but not today?"

No. Let us sing their praises and look at the facts.

First, although some Catholic schools have closed, so have some public schools. Although pupil enrollment in both non-public and public schools in New York state has declined, the drop in public-school student enrollment has been sharper than that of the non-public sector. This may be attributed to lower birthrates and mobility patterns. It is a fact that in many suburban areas, including some in our own diocese, Catholic parishes are building or adding to existing facilities.

As to the argument on elitism, nothing could be less accurate. Our schools offer a child-centered community of faith that embraces children of many backgrounds and many faiths. Because of a varied student population, such researchers as James Coleman tell us that Catholic schools more closely reach the ideal of the "common school" than do other schools in our nation.

Throughout their history in this country, Catholic schools have struggled. They were built on the sacrifices of an immigrant Church. During the "Baby Boom" of the '50s, Catholic schools were criticized for their double classes, crowded classrooms and a "narrow-minded approach to life." In the '60s and '70s, family and Church values were challenged, but through it all, the one thing that Catholic parents did not want to give up was the Catholic school.

Why? Because it is the struggling that makes Catholic schools strong: a sense of urgency, a need for fund raising, parents working to keep the school open, school boards struggling with tuitions and budgets. These are some of the reasons Catholic schools succeed. Our schools promote parental involvement, thereby remaining responsive to parents, and curriculum is more responsive to children's needs. This involvement is part of the makeup of Catholic schools, a tradition of which we can be proud.

At this same time, Catholic schools continue to be a good idea for today's Church as Catholic education — committed to freedom and a call to peace — struggles in strengthening Christian values. Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, states it well: "In the early days of Catholic education, a parochial Church needed to educate for literacy, for life skills, for liturgy, for language. Now, in this time, an ecumenical Church must educate for people over machines, for planet over profit, for purpose over power, for prophesy over peity!"

Today, education is the process of being retooled and reshaped, as is our entire society. We are in a rapid era of traumatic change as today's first grader prepares for citizenship in the 21st century. The future of society is in the hands of those who mold and fashion the adults of the next generation. The moral and academic development of the citizens of this country has always been and must continue to be a spiritual vocation of the Church.

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to share with you the highlights of some programs for this year that are seen as steps toward identifying and building characteristics associated with the future of Catholic schools in our diocese:

- **School self-study and evaluation:** Shaping the Future will enter Phase II with a team visitation to nine schools. Nine more schools will enter Phase I.

- **Urban schools:** Commitment to our urban schools must be a priority of Catholic education. After months of consultation with representatives of Rochester city parishes with schools, we have started a study designed to stabilize the future of Catholic education in this area. A collaborative process is scheduled to produce a final plan by February of this school year.

- **Tuition subsidy:** Alternative sources of funding will continue to be explored. A subcommittee of the diocesan Board of Education will continue to focus on this and on efforts with the diocesan Development Office.

- **Human sexuality:** A parent manual will be made available for use with the 1983 revision of the course of study.

- **Religious education:** Scores from the spring testing of Religious Education Outcome Inventory and Religious Education Developmental Inventory will be evaluated to strengthen the religious education program and integrate religious values throughout the schools.

- **Principals' workshop:** A workshop will focus on the development of the unique nature of our schools and on practices that support this effort in the training and supervision of teaching staffs. A day of recollection will also be provided for all administrators. Principals are encouraged to provide such experiences for local faculties.

- **Education to Justice:** Sixty-five trained leaders will be assisted in continuing Education to Justice in our schools. A training session on conflict resolution has been planned.

- **Physical education:** A new course of study will be introduced in the schools this year.

- **Learning disabilities:** Through outside funding, we will initiate a learning disabilities program at Holy Cross School. In addition, a diocesan task force has been established to find ways to help learning-disabled children in our elementary schools.

- **Regents Action Plan:** An elementary/secondary articulation committee will continue to facilitate diocesan response to the Regents Action Plan. Although several components of the plan to not apply to non-public schools, we accept the challenge of the regents and intend to continue to provide excellence in education.

Recent national studies have produced encouraging findings about students' religious values as they relate to the Catholic school experience. Catholic schools are known by their commitment not only to learning, but to a system of values that is shared by parents, students and teachers. This commitment enables the school to make demands on students to achieve results.

We are called to provide the central theories, the spiritual core around which modern and future life can be energized, revitalized and responsive. We urge you to come to know the Catholic school of today, and we challenge you to join us in our journey toward renewing the face of the earth.

Fisher names placement services director

Harriette Royer has been named the director of career planning and placement at St. John Fisher College. A resident of Rochester, Royer comes to Fisher from a position as partner in R.J. Knobel and Associates.

Her experience includes a number of positions in career counseling, including service as manager of the National Center on Employment of the Deaf, National Technical Institute for the Deaf; rehabilitation counselor for the deaf, New York State Employment Service, Rochester; and vocational evaluator/counselor, Niagara Frontier Vocational Rehabilitation Center, Buffalo. She also served as director of the Mental Health Chapter in Rochester.

Royer, who holds a bachelor's degree in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo and a master's degree in employment counseling from the State University College at Oswego, will be responsible for planning and implementing programs to provide career planning services to under-

graduates and placement services to undergraduates, graduate students and alumni.

At a time when career planning in a liberal arts college is of growing importance to students and their parents, Royer says that her "primary objective is to forge an alliance with students, faculty and staff."

"I want to be accessible to students and a service to them before the second semester of their senior years. The job hunting and interviewing that go on during the last few months of college should be the culmination of a four-year process of self-evaluation and career exploration," Royer continued.

Parents' Club elects officers

Bishop Kearney High School has announced that the officers for the new Parents' Club for the 1985-86 school year are: Co-presidents Anthony Bonadio and Shiela Prinzing; Co-vice presidents Lawrence Oberlies and Elizabeth Meteyer; Treasurer Stephen Herbert; and Secretary Judi Zaccour.