



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal
Anne Perron leads some of the Chapter I students at St. Ann's School in Canandaigua to the neutral site for special education. They are from front to back, Jill Gerstner, Tara Adamo, Danny O'Neill, Noel Brown, Jeremy Depew, Michael Vienna, Shawn Szkap, Norm Palermo, Don Havens.

Catholic Schools

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arriving home until 6:30 p.m. For students as young as third grade who may leave for school by 7 a.m., Sister Eileen observed, that makes an extremely long day.

Currently, one of her teachers is supervising the children between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m., when the bus arrives to take them to School 14. She expects that expense to be reimbursed by the city school district, as do principals at the three other schools.

Ideally, she'd like to see Chapter 1 offered in her building again, but realistically, she'd at least like the lag between classes eliminated.

That's a hope that Hammond shares for next year, along with designating a central neutral site for remediation.

"We tried to keep both systems pure of interruptions ... but there was no opportunity to find neutral sites," he explained.

A neutral site was the solution for the Corning-Painted Post area school district and Corning Catholic School South. Principal Sandra Andra said the district rented space for remedial instruction in the nearby Brennan Center, formerly St. Mary's Convent and now the headquarters for human service organizations. That has accommodated 11 students, grades two through four.

Fourteen students at Corning North, however, are walking a block to the nearest public school facility. Andra said that the Chapter 1 teacher and a library aide from her staff take turns walking with the children.

"Corning (public school system) has really worked with us to find the best solution possible," Andra said, but added that she still opposes the ruling.

"It's very inconvenient for the teachers and our children are still losing instruction time," she said. Even the public school remedial teachers are against it, she noted, because their facilities aren't as well-equipped as those in the Catholic school.

"It has been quite a problem," agreed Sister M. Felicia, FSSJ, principal of St. Hyacinth School in Auburn, where nearly 20 children walk three-tenths of a mile to the nearest public school for remedial help.

To date, St. Hyacinth has had to provide someone to supervise the children, grades three to seven, as they're walking. Mothers have volunteered for this task when possible, but Sister Felicia has occasionally had to ask an eighth-grader to fill in when no one else is available.

Elsewhere in Auburn, parochial school students are bused to the public schools for remedial classes since they are at least three-quarters of a mile away. Sister Felicia and others are aiming to have their students bused also.

"Most of our argument is the inequity. It almost doubles the amount of time the children are out," she explained. "You can't say they're getting an equal education."

At least four children have been withdrawn from the program at St. Hyacinth by their parents, and Sister Felicia expects more as winter weather begins.

"I don't send them in inclement weather now," she said. "I hate to think of them going out in the snow."

At St. Mary's School in Canandaigua, the number of students in the Chapter 1 remedial program is down more than half to about 10. That's due mostly to a 10-minute walk each way to the public school site where the children receive a half hour of instruction three mornings per week and then return.

That adds up to nearly an hour away from regular class activities in the peak late-morning hours. "Some parents just refused because it disrupts their child's day too much," noted Sister Alice Marie Kurtz, the principal.

Working with those students who need remedial help, but are withdrawn from the Chapter 1 program, will place additional

Fifth Craft Show

Holiday shoppers can pick up bargains at the School of the Holy Childhood's fifth annual Craft Sale, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2 and 3.

Among items for sale will be: Christmas ornaments; handmade sweaters, afghans, mittens and scarves; ceramics; dried-flower arrangements; country crafts; and baked

goods. Holy Childhood's Mothers' Craft Group, organizers of the fund raiser, work all year to prepare items for sale. One booth will feature items made by the students themselves.

The sale will be at the school, 100 Groton Parkway, Henrietta, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.



Along the Way

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Sunday evening.

For the last two weeks in this space, I have shared with you some reflections on the genesis of my vocation as an ordained priest and of my experience of that vocation. I consider the ordained priesthood a wonderful grace of the Lord in my life and would not trade it for anything. Although I can often find it demanding and sometimes painful, it consistently calls me to deal with questions and values that are of lasting importance to people. It also leads me daily to contemplate the mystery of God and of other persons.

That daily exercise and some events of the weekend incline me to invite you to some prayer and reflection on your own vocation in life.

Yesterday at Saint Salome's in Irondequoit, Sister Kathleen Wayne made her final profession as a Sister of Mercy. Today at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Sister Mary George Dash celebrated her golden jubilee as a Sister of St. Joseph.

How would you name and describe your own vocation in life?

What do you remember as the first movements of grace leading you to seek the Lord in this way?

When did you make the pivotal decision that set you on the road you now travel?

What do you remember as the significant milestones along the way?

In what ways has your vocation helped you to learn more about the Lord, yourself and others?

Where do you find the deepest joy in your life's vocation? What about its greatest demands?

We are all called by God to a life of loving service. There are many rich ways in which we can do that. You have your way (or vocation) and I have mine.

The point is that our vocations are an experience of, and a way to, holiness; they are a choice to be made carefully and lovingly in the beginning and renewed every day the Lord gives us life. Peace to all.

demands on teachers, she added.

St. Francis DeSales/St. Stephen's School in Geneva is relatively fortunate. There, Chapter 1 space has been designated in a public school across the street from the St. Stephen's building. The biggest problem for Sister Kathleen Klier, principal of the recently united schools, is who will pay to ensure that children cross the street safely.

"As I understand it, the money for that is supposed to be coming off the top of the Chapter 1 funds," she said. "But I don't think we're getting the same answers from Albany they are."

Overall, Sister Kathleen said the Geneva public school district has been "as cooperative as they could be."

"It isn't that much worse than before," she said, explaining that having children coming in and out of class has always been disruptive to some degree. But with the onset of winter, she too is concerned that the situation will worsen.

"Four or five parents have already pulled their children out," Sister Kathleen said. "They just believe it wastes more time than it's worth."

Catholic and public school officials are still negotiating a solution in Waterloo, where 25 students are enrolled in a remedial reading program. Meanwhile, according to the principal, Sister Catherine Judge, the school is proceeding with diagnostic testing, which is still permitted at her site.

"It's been very difficult for all of us," she remarked. "It's certainly not legislation that's favorable to parents or children. It's the children who are really hurt."

"At least one diocesan Catholic school was

unaffected by the ruling. At St. James School in Waverly, students began going to the local public school for remedial programs two years ago. The reason was lack of space, pure and simple, according to Principal Loretta Hayton.

"The (remedial) teachers were having classes in this corner or that so they suggested that their remedial-rooms (in the public school) were better equipped with computers and so forth, which we didn't have at that time," Hayton said. "I personally feel the program has greatly improved because we were able to work so closely together."

About 10 students who need remedial help are now bused from St. James to the public school before classes begin in the morning and are returned shortly after school starts.

"I just thank God we worked that all out before this happened," Hayton said. "It took total cooperation on both sides."

Ideally, McAuliffe and most of the principals would like to see the Supreme Court's decision overturned in an ancillary case, but they don't hold much hope for that.

Meanwhile, McAuliffe is urging both principals and parents to write their local school district's Chapter 1 coordinator to protest the situation.

Jean Gilbert, president of the Federation of Catholic School Parents, views the situation as painfully ironic. She noted that while Catholic schools are commonly used as polling places and for other public purposes, there's no corresponding accommodation.

"We're real convenient when they need us," she said. "It just amazes me that more parents don't become irate. I really get annoyed at this kind of treatment year after year for our Catholic school parents."

Parish Anniversary

St. Charles Borromeo School will celebrate its 60th anniversary Friday, Nov. 1.

The celebration will include a Mass at 9:30 a.m. Students will set the altar cloth, recite readings, serve and participate in the offertory procession.

ry procession.

Sixth-grade teacher Lloyd Peasley will play the organ, and French teacher Linda Wilhelm will play the harp. Reverend Emmet J. Halloran will officiate the ceremony.



Happy Belated Birthday

Bishop Hickey

(Oct. 28th)

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of the

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