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Diocesan committee releases first draft of urban school plan

By Teresa A. Parsons

The first draft of a plan to reorganize and strengthen urban Catholic education in the City of Rochester calls for the closing of one school; the reorganization of six schools into kindergarten or pre-kindergarten through grade six formats; and the creation of two regional junior high schools.

The Catholic Elementary School Plan for the City of Rochester would also create task forces to study multicultural programming, fund raising and system-wide school financing. Parishes and schools from around Monroe County would be asked to work together on committees for formal, cooperative planning.

Other elements of the plan include standardizing budgeting procedures and school financing, and a new school certification process.

In presenting the draft Tuesday morning to principals and pastors of urban schools and parishes, members of the Urban School Study steering committee stressed that the plan is still preliminary.

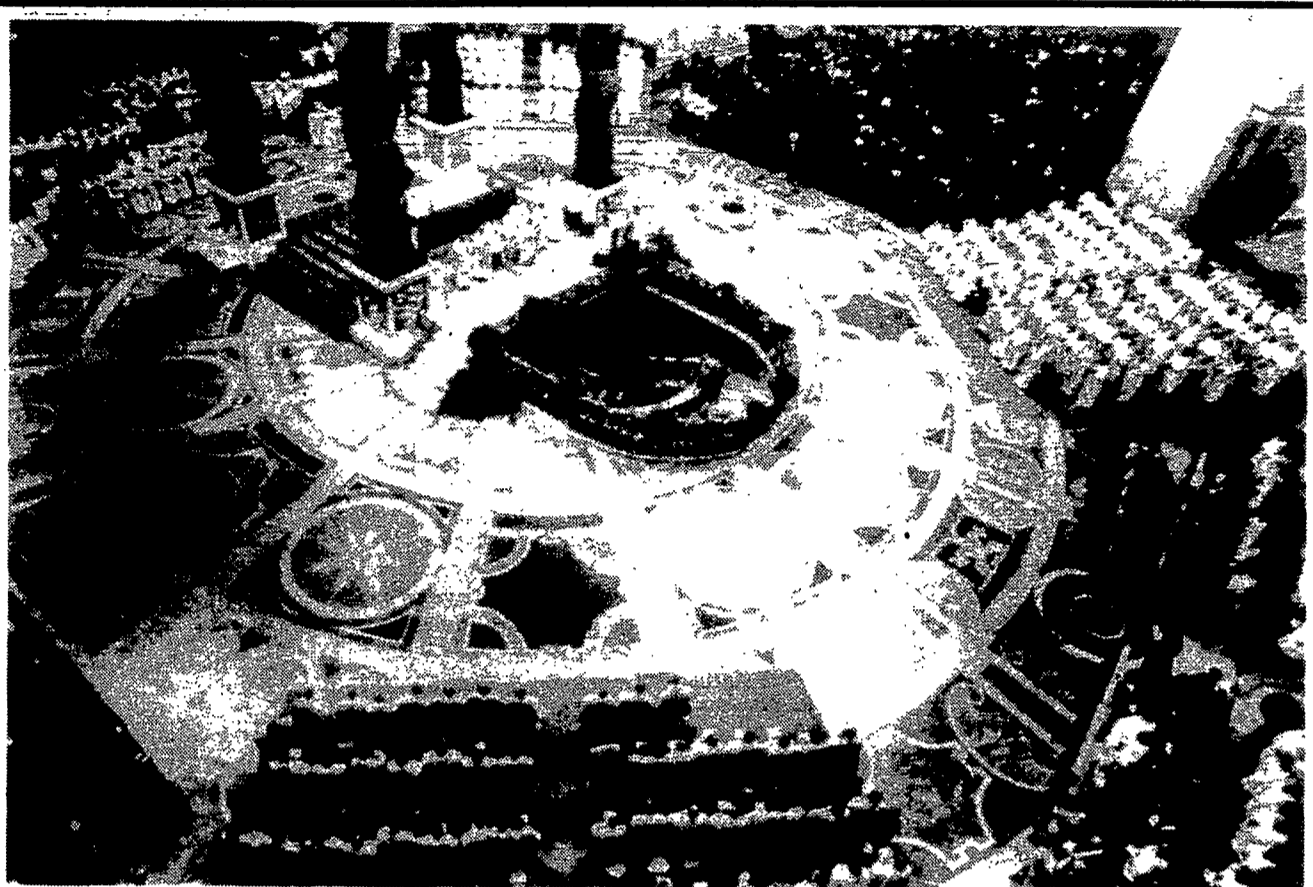
"These are proposals, suggestions and recommendations. It's important in communicating this that it's time to dialogue and not time to go out collecting petitions," said Father John Mulligan, director of the diocesan Division of Urban Services. "It is critical to communicate this as quickly as you can to your (school) parents," he added.

Implementation of the plan in its final form would be a gradual process beginning in the 1986/87 school year.

The proposal suggests that seventh and eighth grade students from Corpus Christi, Holy Apostles/Holy Family, St. Anthony, St. Boniface, St. Monica and St. Philip Neri schools attend regional junior high schools at Our Lady of Good Counsel and Blessed Sacrament schools.

The diocese, however, supports the closing of St. Augustine School at the end of the 1985/86 school year, based on the results of the Urban School Study. The proposed school plan suggests the appointment of a "Transition and Placement Committee" made up of the principals of St. Augustine's and nearby schools (St. Monica's, St. Helen's and Good Counsel, among others). The committee would help to place students and staff from St. Augustine's in other schools.

Although the proposal states that: "No schools will be mandated to close in 1986-87," it also notes that additional



At the synod

Church leaders from throughout the world gathered last week for the extraordinary Synod of Bishops. See our four-page pull-out section which begins on Page 9. (NC photo)

closings may be required based on results of a new school certification process.

The plan would not change existing diocesan evaluation criteria for certification. But the following procedural changes are proposed: a four-member certification team for each school, consisting of a diocesan staff coordinator and three rotating members — a principal, a pastor and a school board president or Diocesan Board of Education representative — chosen at random and not associated with the school under review; preparation of evidence by the reviewed school; school

site visits by the certification team; and a report by the team to the bishop either certifying the school or recommending corrective actions.

Schools scheduled for review during October-January in 1986/87 would be Annunciation, Holy Apostles/Holy Family, St. Anthony and St. Boniface. They were targeted primarily because of low enrollment in some grades.

Blessed Sacrament Regional Junior High School would serve seventh and eighth grade students from Corpus Christi, Continued on Page 7

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26 Mr. and Mrs. A. have three small children all younger than 15. Mr. A. is disabled and receives small Social Security payments which are the family's sole source of income. Mrs. A. is a dialysis patient. The family's house is without hot water. A gift of \$375 would give this family a functional hot water tank.

27 Mrs. B. has two teenage children. The family's gas boiler is in need of repair and could be fixed for \$395.

28 Mr. and Mrs. C. Have three young children. Mr. C. works as a janitor at a local school. His poverty-level income makes it very tight for the family. They are in need of a toilet, which would cost \$300.

29 Mr. and Mrs. D. have three children entering their teen years. This family has no source of heat in their rural home. Mr. and Mrs. D. are profoundly deaf. Their sole income is from Social Security. They need a furnace by Christmas. Any amount would help toward the enormous cost of a complete heating system.

30 Mrs. E. is an elderly woman who lives in a mobile home without a furnace. An oil furnace costs \$975.

31 Mr. and Mrs. F. have five children. The youngest is 19 months old. The father is a school janitor. The furnace was "red-tagged," and they now have no heat in

the house. They are on a very tight budget, having just paid for repairs to a broken water pipe in the kitchen.

32 Mrs. G. is an elderly woman on Social Security. She has raw sewage in her basement and the smell is terrible. For complete digging and replacement of water service to the house, she needs \$725.

33 Mr. and Mrs. H. were born in 1900 and 1905. Their furnace hasn't worked for over one year. They keep warm with a gas oven and now owe RG&E an enormous bill. For \$900, they could obtain a furnace.

34 Mr. I is elderly and on Social Security. He has been two years without a furnace. He is handicapped. The stove has kept him alive but a furnace would do a better job. He needs \$750.

35 Mr. and Mrs. J., an elderly couple, need repairs to their furnace. To get the furnace functional for winter, they need \$185. Mr. J. is a disabled veteran.

36 Mrs. K. has a teenage son. The roof of their house leaks, doing much damage to their home. The kitchen ceiling will soon collapse. Repairs could be made for \$600.

37 Mrs. L. has four children. The family's sewer line is damaged, causing raw sewage to back up into the basement. The house smells and it is infested with insects. The sinks and tub are unusable. For repairs

giving them hot water and heat this winter, the cost is \$434.

38 Mr. and Mrs. M. are 85 and 75 years old. Their water line broke, leaving them without water. Repairs costing \$690 would give this elderly couple water again. The couple lives on a Social Security pension and are not eligible for other programs.

39 Mrs. N. has two toddlers. One was disabled by a car accident. A gift of \$780 would give them hot water and heat this winter.

40 Mr. and Mrs. O. have three young teen children. Mr. O. has been unemployed. Mrs. O works part time at a nursing home. They have no hot water. A gift of \$265 would give them a hot water heater.

41 Mr. and Mrs. P. have two teenagers. Mr. P. is being treated for emotional problems and cannot work. Mrs. P. was injured in a car accident and is recovering from surgery before she can return to work as a school bus driver. They need a hot water heater at a cost of \$199.

42 Mrs. Q. has three children, ages one through 19. They live in a double house. The only income is from the rental of the other side. They need a hot water heater at a cost of \$289.

43 Mrs. R. is a senior citizen. A roof leak is causing much interior damage to her home. Repairs will cost \$600.

44 Mr. and Mrs. S. have seven children. Their 73-year-old grandfather lives with them. Mr. S. works but receives a poverty-level income. A donation of \$495 would assist this family with much-needed plumbing repairs.

45 Mr. and Mrs. T. are elderly. Mr. T. is disabled by a heart disease. Mrs. T. has had two hip replacements and remains disabled. A hole in the roof of their house brings the cold and rain into their home.

Roof repairs would cost \$175. If not fixed, the winter will severely damage this roof and cost much more for repairs.

46 The father of a young family was recently discharged from service. He encounters difficulty finding suitable and steady employment. He is a high School graduate, skilled in factory machine work, and is currently getting odd jobs through temporary employment agencies. The family is especially depressed this Christmas at not being able to provide for two children, one of whom is seriously handicapped and bedridden. Father desperately wants job to support family adequately.

47 Single mother, age 17, is living alone with newborn infant in rural area. They need furniture and other household goods, including crib and other essentials for baby.

48 Ms. R. is a 23-year-old single parent with three young children ages four months to three years. The building where she lived recently burned to the ground causing her to lose everything. Living on welfare will not allow her to replace basic things it took her so long to get.

49 Mrs. C. is a working mother with two children. Her husband abandoned her and she is struggling to pay mortgage and all her expenses. Since she is not involved with Social Services, her limited income does not allow her to meet some basic needs for her family.

50 Mr. S. has a family of 12 children. He came to Rochester from Puerto Rico looking for a better life, education and health care, especially for one of his children who is emotionally handicapped. His wife suffers from severe arthritis. She is going through surgery to allow her to have a normal life. Any help will mean a real Christmas celebration for this family.

Inside this edition:

Perceptions of ministers

Bishop Matthew H. Clark asks the Diocesan Pastoral Council to survey the attitudes of parishioners toward those in ministry — Page 5.

Recollections of service

Father Robert F. McNamara reviews a book by Sister Mary Florence Sullivan, RSM, on the history of the Sisters of Mercy in this diocese — Page 6.

Ministry in Kenya

Maryknoll Sister Dorothy Louise Doescher tells of the establishment of a missionary clinic in the bush country of Kenya — Page 8.

Sophomore debuts

Our Lady of Mercy's Kim McDonald leads her team to a 3-1 victory over Harley-Allendale Columbia — Page 14.