

Urban school plan

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St. Boniface and St. Philip Neri, in addition to those Blessed Sacrament already serves through a previous consolidation with St. John the Evangelist. The proposal further recommends that Blessed Sacrament, "because of the excellence of the facility and its central location," be marketed to other eastside city and suburban schools.

Our Lady of Good Counsel School would augment its current school population with seventh and eighth graders from Holy Apostles/Holy Family, St. Anthony, St. Augustine and St. Monica schools.

According to the plan, Inter-parish School Planning Committees would be used in general to involve suburban as well as urban schools and parishes in cooperative planning. Principals and pastors of participating

parishes would be charged with developing written plans in response to specific planning and programming needs.

Three such committees charged with developing inter-parish junior high programs for the 1986/87 year are described in the plan. They are: northside — Annunciation, Christ the King, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Andrew, St. Cecilia, St. Margaret Mary, St. Salome, St. Stanislaus, St. Thomas the Apostle; southeast — Blessed Sacrament/St. John, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady Queen of Peace, St. Ambrose, St. James, St. Jerome, St. Philip Neri, St. Thomas More; southside — Good Shepherd/Guardian Angels, St. Anne.

The Urban School Study, a series of options released in September, suggested a single, central "non-parishioner" school to

address issues raised by the a growing number of non-Catholic, minority students attending such inner-city schools as St. Monica's and Corpus Christi. The diocesan plan proposes instead to create a task force to study multicultural programming.

Members of the task force would include representatives from St. Augustine, St. Monica and Corpus Christi schools as well as from the diocese and the city school district. They would be appointed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark by March 1, 1986, and would report their findings and recommendations to the bishop by December 1, 1986.

The financial section of the plan addresses three financing issues: parish-level changes to stabilize school finances; orienting student subsidies to a family's ability to pay; and increasing diocesan support.

At the parish level, the plan suggests that schools should target tuition to eventually equal half of the total school cost and should adopt some uniform procedure for tuition collection. Parish schools could also allow parents to earn tuition credit by qualified work for the school.

By April 1, 1986, a task force would be appointed to develop and recommend fiscal policies and procedures for the Catholic elementary schools of Monroe County. Bishop Clark will accept recommendations for appointments to that task force until December 15, 1986.

A task force on fund raising will also be appointed by the bishop to consider some of the options suggested by the Urban School Study, potential support from foundations, promotion of an education fund or a capital fund drive throughout the diocese or a tuition assistance plan, among other possibilities. This task force will convene on May 1, 1986, and recommendations are due October 15, 1986.

The plan suggests that the diocese also supply additional support to selected schools in the areas of marketing, student recruitment, personnel and curriculum development. This assistance would focus on better serving multicultural school populations by recruiting more black, Hispanic and Asian teachers; training current administrators and teachers; and developing an improved Hispanic curriculum.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark opened Tuesday's meeting with a prayer and briefly addressed some issues related to the Urban School Study and the diocese's proposed plan. In response to questions about whether participation in the final plan is optional for a school or mandatory, the bishop said that he could not allow parishes or schools to opt out since it would negate the planning already accomplished. Nor, he said, could the time line be substantially altered. He noted, however, that implementation will be gradual and that the study will be an ongoing process.

In response to concern about the final plan's effect on neighborhoods, Bishop Clark explained that, although they are an important consideration, neighborhoods cannot be served at the expense of quality education. "The neighborhood is an important consideration, but not the only one," the bishop said. "Wherever possible, neighborhood schools will be recognized as valuable, and we will work hard to maintain them."

Finally, Bishop Clark said he would not support any plan that seems to people to represent a flight from the city or from the poor on behalf of Catholic education.

The Urban School Study was formally undertaken last April, although diocesan and school officials began the process 18 months before. Profiles of the needs and strengths of the 20 Catholic elementary schools in Rochester were prepared by school leaders, and surveys of staff and parents were conducted. Alan Taddiken, a consultant from the Center for Governmental Research, visited each school to clarify the profile results. Principals also met throughout the summer in geographically organized clusters to develop options.

On September 30, Taddiken presented the Urban School Study, a series of options based on the data he collected and the ideas generated by principals and parish leaders.

The plan was evaluated throughout October and November at the parish and school levels, and reactions were reported at meetings among the Urban School Study steering committee members, parents, teachers, pastors and principals.

Parents were also surveyed in November for their reactions to the Urban School Study options. Between 70 and 90 percent of the surveys were returned — a "phenomenal" response according to Sister Anne Guerin, assistant superintendent for development and planning. She said that although results of the survey are being computerized, some "broad strokes" of parental concern are already addressed by the proposed plan.

During December, the proposed urban school plan will be reviewed at the parish level. Parish councils will be responsible for completing and returning response forms included with each copy of the plan by Tuesday, January 14. Also on January 14, Bishop Clark and members of the steering committee invite anyone concerned to a hearing on the plan at St. Anthony School Hall from 7:30-9 p.m. Details on how to be scheduled as a speaker at that hearing will be released later.

Meanwhile, Father Mulligan invited anyone with questions or concerns about the proposed plan to contact him or other members of the steering committee. The plan finally approved by parish councils, the bishop and the steering committee will be presented on February 1.

La Iglesia

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da más hispanos han comenzado a rendir culto en las iglesias.

En respuesta al aumento nacional de la participación de hispanos en la Iglesia Católica, el Tercer Encuentro urgió que se hagan esfuerzos adicionales para aumentar las vocaciones hispanas — especialmente en ciudades como Rochester, las cuales tienen menos sacerdotes y religiosos hispanos que el promedio nacional.

Respondiendo a esa llamada el Apostolado Hispano diocesano está reclutando sacerdotes y religiosos hombres y mujeres para que sirvan de modelos a los hispanos de la Diócesis de Rochester. "Modelos indígenas metidos de repente en los problemas de la juventud hispana, sin ser capaces de imaginarse ellos mismos en esta clase de vocación," dijo el Padre Tracy. "Ha habido un aumento de 1,000 por ciento de obispos (hispanos) en los Estados Unidos en los últimos 10 o 15 años... aunque aquí en Rochester todavía no hemos experimentado esto podemos traerlos como modelos."

El Obispo Álvaro Corrada del Río, un auxiliar de la Arquidiócesis de Washington, D.C., celebró la misa en la Iglesia St. Francis Xavier/Holy Redeemer, el 15 de noviembre. En su homilía, el obispo — el primer puertorriqueño que ha sido consagrado como obispo en los Estados Unidos — enfatizó la importancia de que los jóvenes hispanos locales participen en la Iglesia.

Al día siguiente se ofreció un programa de vocaciones específicamente para jóvenes hispanos, en la escuela St. Francis Xavier.

El equipo diocesano de vocaciones y el Apostolado Hispano auspiciaron el

programa, el cual fue parte de la Santa Misión que duró una semana. El equipo esposo/esposa formado por Felix y Norma Rivera, miembros de una orden puertorriqueña de predicadores estuvo a cargo de la misión.

Edwin García, un participante del programa de discernimiento de Becket Hall, también se dirigió a los jóvenes, quienes vinieron de seis diferentes parroquias. Dirigiéndose a la pregunta sobre el celibato, García describió la dicotomía entre las presiones espirituales y culturales que pesan en su decisión de entrar o no entrar al seminario.

En la cultura hispana, se espera que el hijo mayor se case para que el apellido no se extinga," mencionó.

Pero las restricciones económicas también son tomadas en cuenta por los jóvenes hispanos que están conciderando las vocaciones. Porque la mayor parte de las comunidades hispanas son muy pobres, dijo el Padre Tracy, muchos jóvenes se ven forzados a abandonar la escuela para mantener a su familia. "Mas del 50 por ciento de los hispanos que entran al quinto grado no se graduan de la escuela secundaria," anadió.

A nivel nacional la respuesta al llamado vocacional de los hispanos es muy bajita comparada con la respuesta de los nohispanos. Pero hay que recordar que la comunidad hispana empezó a emerger de su patrón de celebracion-en casa hace solamente más o menos dos décadas. Tales organizaciones locales como el equipo de implementación del Tercer Encuentro tienen un largo camino que recorrer antes de que los hispanos sean igualmente representados en la Iglesia.

"Ustedes no van a poder recoger sacerdotes y monjas hispanas del aire," concluyó Padre Tracy.

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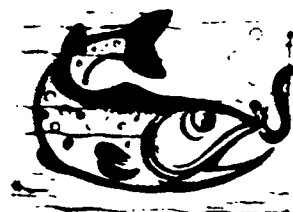
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