

Education division stresses planning

By Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND
Director

Diocesan Division of Education

For more than eight years, we as a diocese have been committed to planning for the future of our Catholic schools. The Diocesan Guidelines for Local School Planning have called for the establishment of policy setting Christian Formation Committees at the local parish level. These committees work in conjunction with the parish councils and are responsible for setting policies as well as preparing and developing budgets in conjunction with the parish finance committees and planning for the future of the school programs.

This planning involves an examination of enrollment history and projections; quality programs, personnel and staffing; building conditions; and utilization and financial projections for expenses and income. Often-times, it necessitates collaboration and cooperation with neighboring parishes and schools.

Once this thorough study has been conducted, a recommended plan is presented to the parish council. This plan is validated by the council and sent to the Division of Education for review and to Bishop Clark for his approval.

When more than one parish and school become involved in the planning, greater communication is needed. This may be accomplished through the formation of an interparish planning committee, a joint "board" or an especially commissioned group like the Urban Steering Committee of 1985-86. These groups strive to formulate proposals that would promote and provide quality Catholic education within their areas:

The results of their research, study and recommendation are examined very carefully by Bishop Clark, who gives final approval for the direction of the schools involved.

Due to the reality of declining enrollment, increased costs and shifting populations in many areas of the diocese, the 1985-86 school year was one filled with many difficult decisions at parish, regional and diocesan levels. We are grateful for the leadership and involvement of our clergy, school administrators, parents and interested parishioners who gave generously of their time and talents to form proposals for the future of Catholic schools in the Rochester, Elmira, Corning and suburban Monroe County areas.

One of our goals for the 1986-87 academic year is to continue the work of the plan for the schools in the city of Rochester and in Monroe County (February, 3, 1986). We are also committed to developing a plan for marketing of our schools and to offering assistance on marketing to the individual schools. Members of our staff and of the implementation committee will meet with Mr. Richard Burke, consultant from the National Catholic Education Association, who will help us to analyze the status of our planning process and how to move forward with a strong marketing program.

We are hopeful that — through a comprehensive consultative approach to planning, good management techniques and the generous commitment of many of our people — we will be able to give direction for a strong Catholic school program for our diocese that will lead us into the '90s and beyond.

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NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

"The elementary and secondary schools of the Diocese of Rochester admit students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs."

Holy Ghost enrolling students

Holy Ghost School, 230 Coldwater Road, Rochester, is now taking registrations for the 1986-87 school year.

The school has a full-day kindergarten, which encompasses both the standard curriculum and an enrichment program. This program includes computer use, art, music, individualized instruction, field trips and crafts. The all-day kindergarten schedule balances both active and quiet portions of the day.

Holy Ghost School is committed to the development of the whole child. It maintains a family atmosphere and personalized approach to education achieved through a smaller student body. The small class size enables the faculty and staff to meet the individualized needs of each child.

Limited openings are available in kindergarten through grade eight. For information, call the school, (716)247-4156.



Bishop's Office

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
1150 Buffalo Road · Rochester, NY 14624
(716) 328-3210

My dear people,

The start of a new school year provides us with an opportunity for reflection, for renewal and for responding to the principles we hold, the values we live and the dreams we have.

We reflect on the sacrifices our parishioners, parents and teachers continue to make in order to provide our young people with Catholic schools in which to grow in their appreciation of themselves, others and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We renew our commitment to meet the challenges facing Catholic schools and our commitment to do so in a way that cherishes our rich traditions, maintains a strong Catholic environment and prepares us for a future that is sure, hope-filled and faith-enhancing.

We respond to the realities of the present with a dream for a future in which Catholic schools provide another manifestation of people and parishes collaborating, supporting and sacrificing together for a ministry of our Church that is needed, mutually beneficial and beyond the ability of many faith communities to provide alone.

The initiatives and collaboration arising from the Urban School Study of the past several years do much to secure the future of Catholic education. We look with much hope to:

- our new collaborative junior high schools — Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Seton;
- the reconfiguration of our schools in Elmira, which has produced Holy Family primary, intermediate and junior high schools;
- the consolidation of the Corning Catholic schools.

These new endeavors are the guardians of the past, preservers of the present, and spearpoints of the future.

May we continued to pray and work for the strengthening of our Catholic schools.

With every blessing, I remain,

Your brother in Christ,

Matthew H. Clark

+ Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

MHC:bfw

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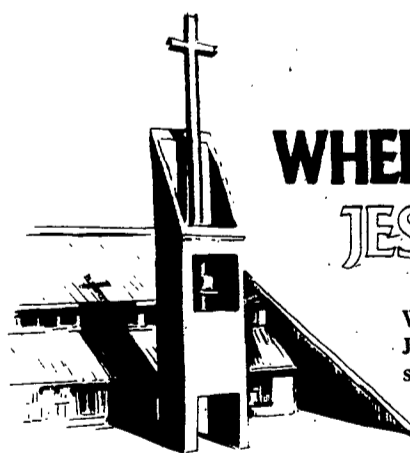
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