

Inauguration

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to Anne of Cleves. To convince the king that Anne met his aesthetic standards, Cromwell had an artist paint "a delightful portrait of Anne's less-than-delightful face."

Though Cromwell was executed soon after the real Anne arrived in England, "we are still affected by Cromwellian hype," the governor said, citing the use of the modern media to promote hair transplants, politicians and distorted images "of who we should be and how things should be."

"It's getting harder and harder to see the real truths and fundamental beliefs," the governor lamented. "That's why St. John Fisher College is so important. We need to discern the truth."

Yet Gov. Cuomo warned against the trend of splitting college education into separate disciplines and the desire among many students to gain professional training without developing a broad base of general knowledge. He insisted that the integrated approach of the liberal arts must be maintained.

"A college must hold to the conviction that there is an intellectual and moral

heritage that is worth preserving," the governor said. "If colleges are just pit stops in the paper chase, then we'd better start worrying about tomorrow."

In his inaugural address, Dr. Pickett traced the history of the university system from its beginnings in Bologna in 1088 to the present. "As a people, we have made an enormous commitment to educating our youth," he said.

Although sociologists have derived long lists of the purposes of education — including socialization, stimulating the economy and character development — Pickett said "the real purpose of a college or university is to create an environment ... where people can change and grow."

"Students come to a college to develop and change, and our job is to facilitate that change," the new president said. "To me, and I hope to all of you, that is a task worth doing."

He said he hoped that, in years hence, he would be judged "not by my own abilities, but by the abilities and energies I bring to be released in others."

"In the end, it will be the quality of an educational experience for an individual student that will determine my success," Dr. Pickett said. "May that be the test for us all."



Michael N. Aydogan
Governor Mario Cuomo, fresh from an overwhelming victory on his re-election bid, gives the principal address at the inauguration of St. John Fisher College's new president, Dr. William L. Pickett. The governor also received an honorary degree during the ceremonies.

Dialogue

Continued from Page 1

of some people. Their fear is that they're going to be supporting other schools around the area."

Patricia Lutz, president of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parents' Association, wondered why parishes without schools are so reluctant to help poorer parishes.

Father John Norris, pastor of Church of the Assumption in Fairport, responded that while Assumption does recognize an obligation to assist other parishes in many areas, the Church's priorities must also adapt to "a whole different ballgame."

"Eighty percent of the young people in our diocese are not in Catholic schools," he said. "I feel we have seen a change in our culture and society that we have to face up to ... I think we should go back to our primary purpose of religious education."

Several representatives reported that parents and parishioners are more receptive to possible consolidation than ever before. At St. James Parish, more than 70 percent of those who participated said they would favor consolidation under certain circumstances.

Apart from the numbers, Sister Sheila Luber, principal of St. Stanislaus School, noticed a change in attitude. "People are still very concerned about what happens to education in the area," she said. "But there is a mellowness there versus a real antagonism in the beginning."

Facing the future

The questions suggested by the Catholic School Implementation Committee were:

• The primary purpose for the existence of Catholic schools is to teach Catholic doctrine and values. How does this priority fit in with your educational goals (for your children)? Do you see yourself committed to this for the next five years? Long range?

• The diocese of Montserrat does not offer public education, except educational development and undercuts a parish's funding base. In Montrose County, approximately 15 percent of the diocese fall into this category. As parents, what do you believe can be done to improve this situation over the next five years?

• There are some parishes in Montrose County that are finding it extremely difficult to support and maintain their Catholic schools. Do all Catholics have an obligation to help our brothers and sisters transcending parish limits? What structures to you think will facilitate this?

Most, however, still prefer to regard consolidation as a last resort. "One of the things we struggle with is do we consolidate out of weakness or out of strength?" asked Father John Mulligan, director of the Division of Urban

Ministry. "Does putting weak together with weak always make strength?"

Some representatives complained that the statistical information presented at the meeting was repetitive and would have been more effective if simply submitted in written form.

Chairman William Dillon disagreed. "Although seemingly tedious, I think it was important that everyone present hear what everyone else feels," he said. "I think the openness displayed here tonight should be a real cause for hope."

The atmosphere was less emotional than at last year's forums on the Catholic elementary school plan. Yet some speakers were frustrated by a perceived lack of progress.

Father Neil Miller, pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, noted that the parish is open to new possibilities, but added that its openness is being "pushed."

"I don't know how long we can hold out," he said. "Two years down the line may be too late for us."

Even more frustrated was Patricia Lutz, Parent Association president at Perpetual Help. "I sat in one of these meetings last June and I see no progress," she said. "We are spinning our wheels."

Dillon responded that the diocese is offering guidelines and assistance to those parishes whose schools are already facing financial crisis. "We recognize that we cannot continue slapping Band-Aids on here and there," he said.

"But what we are trying to come up with is a wise plan that will be effective for many decades to come ... That's not something that can be done hastily if it is to be done wisely and well!"

Information gathered at the dialogues will be shared with various committees and task forces established by the February 3 plan. Members will recommend actions on areas such as financial reform, school certification, and marketing to the implementation committee, which will in turn develop recommendations for Bishop Matthew H. Clark by February, 1987.

Fred Guiffrida, chairman of Our Lady of Lourdes' parish council, asked whether the committee would seek further reaction from parents before its recommendations are final. "I assure you, we will be coming back to you throughout the process," Dillon said.

Implementation committee members planned no changes in format for the remaining dialogues. Representatives from the northwest and inner city were scheduled to meet later this week. Parishes in the southeast will gather at St. Philip Neri on Monday, November 17, and southwest-area parishes are to meet Tuesday, November 18, at St. Anthony of Padua. Parishes from other areas of the county are welcome to send representatives to both meetings, which begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Division of Education at (716) 328-3210.

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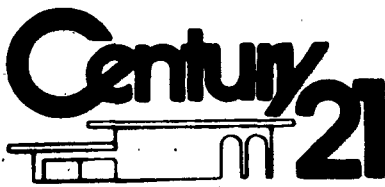
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