



CHANGING OF THE GUARD — Ron Dick, Aquinas Institute's basketball coach, left, and Jeff Goulding, Aquinas' sports celebrity, are seen in a first-class affair. See pages 4 and 9.

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World

Haiti's situation has worsened

Vatican City — In the year after the fall of dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, Haiti's situation "has worsened at every level — economic, social and political," the country's bishops have said. In a statement read in churches to mark the anniversary of Duvalier's departure, the bishops said that "to make changes, new men are needed" in the government. Vatican Radio reported on the statement Feb. 6. "Is it possible to plan the evolution of the political system without a purge in the administration?" the statement asked.

Cardinal rejects request

Jerusalem — A Polish cardinal has turned down a request from a delegation of Auschwitz survivors that he remove a Carmelite convent from the former Nazi concentration camp, said Yitzhak Arad, chairman of Israel's Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum and a member of the delegation. In an Israeli radio interview, Arad said that during a meeting with Cardinal Franciszek Macharski of Krakow, the delegation said the Carmelite convent symbolizes a change in the meaning of Auschwitz, where an estimated 2 million Jews were gassed to death during World War II.

Nation

League officer blasts Time

New York — Time magazine has reiterated an earlier report that law enforcement agents bugged a Catholic confessional as part of a Mafia investigation, but said its report was incorrect in saying that the agents had court permission. The correction appeared in the magazine's Feb. 2 issue, in a response to a letter from John P. Puthenveetil, New York director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. The Catholic League officer wrote, "Your irresponsible reporting of a grossly exaggerated statement from some unidentified 'agents' somewhere in the U.S. has confused many and may have caused serious damage to the practice of the Catholic Church — not to mention the damage this has done to your own credibility." In an editors' note, Time responded: "According to Time's source, the confessional and other parts of the church were bugged without the court's or the church's permission. Time regrets the error."

Holy See forms commission

Washington — The Holy See has formed a commission of two U.S. cardinals and an archbishop "to assess the current situation in the Archdiocese of Seattle." Last year, Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle was instructed by the Vatican to give up his authority in several key areas. The action provoked wide controversy, and the U.S. bishops last November offered to mediate the dispute. The members of the new commission are Cardinals Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago and John J. O'Connor of New York, and Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco.

Catholic school salaries force teachers to juggle conflicting values

By Teresa A. Parsons

Brenda Monaghan would happily have spent her entire teaching career at Corpus Christi School, if it hadn't been for money, or rather, the lack of it.

As long as she was married and under 30, her salary seemed adequate. But at 33, she was divorced, and money became a persistent cause for worry.

"It was just a constant pressure," she said. "Sometimes I really had to wonder where the money to pay my bills was going to come from."

For three years, she held on by working nights as a grocery store cashier. Last August, after nine years at Corpus Christi, she accepted a teaching position in a public school.

Monaghan is one of 110 teachers who left jobs in diocesan schools between January and December, 1986, according to Sister Joseph Gilmory Russell, assistant superintendent for personnel.

That figure represents only about 9 percent of the nearly 1,200 Catholic school teachers and principals employed by the diocese, Sister Joseph Gilmory said. Nevertheless, it reflects the fact that Catholic schools, which for decades depended on low-paid religious women to keep costs down, are now being forced to compete with public schools for lay teachers.

In terms of money, it's no contest.

Last year, the Rochester diocese offered higher salaries for lay elementary school teachers than its counterparts in Buffalo, Syracuse, Albany or New York City, according to data from the National Catholic Educational Association that was published earlier this month in The Buffalo News. Diocesan wage and salary guidelines for 1987/88 call for further increases. Yet, public schools can generally still afford to double those salaries and offer better pensions and other benefits as well.

No one who becomes a teacher expects to get rich. But like Brenda Monaghan, many of the teachers who work in the Catholic school system find they are fighting just to stay solvent.

From the day Martin LiCursi joined the faculty at St. Theodore's School in Gates in 1968, he accepted a financial sacrifice. His salary that first year was \$5,500 — barely half of what he made working nights at Kodak while he studied for a degree at SUNY Brockport.

Next year's salary guidelines recommend that a diocesan teacher with LiCursi's experience earn between \$18,800 and \$19,780, depending on educational background. He knows that after 19 years, he could earn more money elsewhere, but he stays because he loves what he does and where he does it.

For all but two of the past 19 years, he has continued to work nights at a second job, dispatching trucks and selling cars or furniture so that he could afford "luxuries," such as buying a home and keeping a pet dog.

"It has been a sacrifice. I'd be a fool to say otherwise," he said. "But a lot of people go along in life trying to find some kind of satisfaction in their work or wishing to God they had done something else with their life. I'm not going to be one of those people."

"I wanted to do what I wanted to do," he added. "I've always been a bullhead. A couple of years ago, I decided that there were some things I was going to have to do without. But one thing I'm not going to do without is the excitement of teaching kids."



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

NEW BOARDS — Ron Dick painted the key lines on the newly resurfaced floor at Aquinas Institute's gym. Delays caused by hidden problems with the gym's sub-flooring caused AQ's basketball team to scramble for gyms to practice in, during the early part of the season. The Aquinas gym reopened Monday, February 9.

He acknowledged that neither the excitement of teaching nor even the incorporation of moral and ethical values in learning are sole prerogatives of Catholic schools. But religion is not an explicit part of a public school education, and for LiCursi, that's as fundamental to a curriculum as reading, writing or arithmetic.

"Religion is the fourth 'R,'" he said. "It gives reason to everything else."

Shared faith also offers the "glue" that can bond parents, students, teachers, priests and religious together in a rare atmosphere of commitment. While he concedes that not every Catholic school generates such a commitment, LiCursi believes he has found it at St. Theodore's.

"It's the kind of system where everybody's involved. They truly feel as if it is their school. I guess that's why it has been a success," he said. "I'm not saying I couldn't find the same thing in a public school. I'm saying that I have it now, so why have I got to go looking for it?"

Of course, he might find the same atmosphere at another school and make more

money at the same time. But LiCursi doesn't believe the diocese or any other school system actually pays teachers what they are worth. And while it doesn't show up in his bank account, he is convinced that appreciation is a reward that counts.

"When I'm dead and gone, what am I going to leave behind, an estate?" he asked. "If so, I want it to be the best kind of estate . . . that something I said to somebody is going to be remembered."

Deanne Delehanty applauds LiCursi's dedication, but she doesn't believe there are enough people like him to sustain a quality Catholic school system. More often, she asserted, teachers accept substandard salaries in Catholic schools because they either can't find other employment or have become complacent.

After a total of eight-and-a-half years teaching in several different Catholic schools, Delehanty left Corpus Christi this year for School No. 14, where she teaches second grade. She has encouraged every Catholic school teacher she knows to follow in her footsteps.

Continued on Page 15