



Health in high gear

During Older Americans Month, prospective senior citizens might benefit from taking a look at the holistic perspective on 'high-level wellness.' See page 7.



Left in the dust

Kearney took City-Catholic League's Division 1 with a win over McQuaid; Mooney's girls captured their third consecutive league crown. See pages 10 and 11.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Catholic Diocese of Rochester

50 Cents

Thursday, May 28, 1987

16 Pages

World & Nation in Brief from NC News

World

Pope discusses priest shortage

Vatican City — Noting a growing shortage of priests worldwide, Pope John Paul II said priestless parishes should try to meet regularly in prayer services and when possible distribute Communion using pre-consecrated hosts. The pope said the decreasing number of priests throughout the world has made priestless parishes a reality in many traditionally Christian countries.

Seattle report presented

Vatican City — A commission of three leading U.S. churchmen presented the Vatican with a recommendation aimed at resolving the situation of Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and now expects a Vatican decision on the matter, said Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin of Chicago, a commission member.

Cardinal Bernardin said May 21 that commission members had a "positive exchange" with Vatican officials in discussing their report. He refused to discuss the content of the commission's recommendation, or say whom the group met with.

Nation

Cardinal Krol 'stable'

Philadelphia — Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia was listed in satisfactory and stable condition the day after undergoing seven hours of surgery to correct a condition which caused internal bleeding of the gastro-intestinal system. "The prognosis is good," Dr. John P. Cossa, one of Cardinal Krol's surgeons, said May 19 just after the operation on the 76-year-old prelate.

Meanwhile, Archbishop Edmund C. Szoka of Detroit has been named to replace Cardinal Krol as the U.S. bishops' representative at a national eucharistic congress in Poland and in events related to Pope John Paul II's June 8-14 visit to that country.

100 stations to carry rosary

Marina Del Rey, Calif. — More than 100 U.S. television stations are scheduled to carry live a June 6 broadcast of Pope John Paul II opening the Marian Year leading the rosary from Rome. The list of stations carrying the broadcast, titled "Prayer for World Peace," was released May 20 by Global Media Ltd., the Marina del Rey firm organizing the worldwide broadcast.

CPA editors consider issues

San Antonio, Texas — Steer clear of advocacy reporting, recruit "new, young blood," and don't shy away from making the editorial policy decisions you were hired to make, editors told each other at the annual convention of the Catholic Press Association. These and other concerns of the religious journalist were discussed in a session on "issues in the religious press" during the May 20-22 convention of CPA editors and staffs. The session also included member editors of the Associated Church Press, the organization of Protestant publishers, which was holding its convention in San Antonio at the same time.

Trend growing

Junior highs gain three more schools

By Teresa A. Parsons

Three Monroe County Catholic elementary schools have opted to consolidate with two southeast-area regional junior high schools next fall.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Andrew's schools both plan to send seventh- and eighth-graders to Blessed Sacrament Regional Junior High School in September. Junior-high students from St. Anne's School will attend Brighton's Seton Junior High when school resumes this fall.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark last week confirmed those arrangements when he notified principals at all three schools that he had accepted their proposals.

Earlier this spring, Bishop Clark approved a request from Holy Apostles/Holy Family School to send seventh- and eighth-graders to Our Lady of Good Counsel Junior High. Thus, more than a dozen elementary schools are now supporting Monroe County's three regional junior high programs at Blessed Sacrament, Seton and Good Counsel.

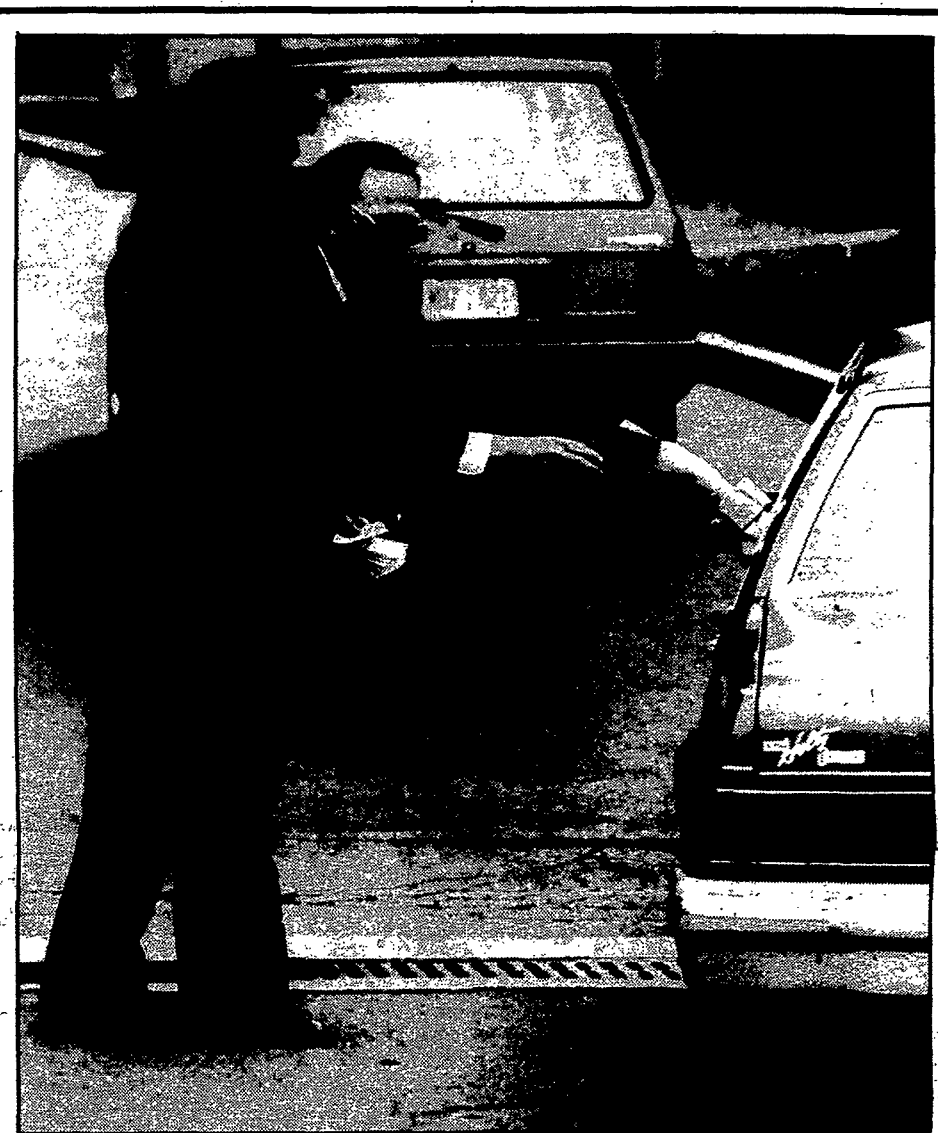
No doubt about it — the concept of specialized junior high school programs is catching on.

"Children are honestly growing up more quickly these days," said Judy Shaw, president of the school board at St. Anne's. "People are realizing that a junior-high setting is better socially, emotionally and educationally."

"Four years ago, people weren't ready to give up their K-8 school," she continued. "They seem more ready to accept that now."

Administrators at St. Anne's, Perpetual Help and St. Andrew's all submitted their formal proposals for reorganization after registration in March. But each of the schools had envisioned potential changes at the junior high level much earlier.

Continued on Page 4



PRO-LIFE LEAFLETS — Project Life volunteer Jerry Crawford distributes literature to motorists as they enter the Genesee Hospital parking garage. For story, see page 4.

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Catholic school's closing creates educational void

EDITOR'S NOTE: As we were going to press Tuesday, May 26, we were saddened to learn that Father Albert V. Ryan, pastor of St. Mary's in Bath, had died in the early hours of the morning (see obituary, page 12). Our information at this time indicates that Father Ryan's death will not alter the decision to close St. Mary's School.

St. Mary's School in Bath has lost its hard-fought battle against rising costs and declining enrollment.

Last week, Bishop Matthew H. Clark approved a recommendation to close the 27-year-old school at the end of this year. The recommendation was proposed and passed unanimously in March of this year by members of St. Mary's parish council and finance committee.

For members of the Home/School Association and school board, which were formerly part of the proposal to close, the decision marked the end of at least two years of intense struggle to keep the school open.

Jim Gallagher, a parent and school board member who has supported the school for the past 10 years, describes the decision as "heartbreaking."

"I will never see another Catholic school in central Sullivan County," he says. "Catholic education can't survive without your reading, your writing, your science. It has to do with the whole person. I think (the closing) will have a long-term negative effect on my

two-younger children. They're going to miss out on a values-oriented education."

Closing St. Mary's leaves no easy alternatives for Bath teachers and students who want to remain in Catholic education. The closest neighboring schools are in Corning and Hornell — each of which is more than 20 miles from Bath. Yet the public school district does not provide busing for students who reside more than 15 miles from their school.

"Catholic education is over in this area because there's no way for people to get to it," Gallagher said.

Diocesan education officials intervened in a January, 1986, decision by St. Mary's finance committee to close the school at the end of the 1985/86 school year. They asked that the school and parish first try several alternatives. During the ensuing year, St. Mary's reactivated its parish council to take broader representation in deciding the future of the school.

Parents and other school supporters mounted new efforts at recruiting and fund raising. Although their 1986-87 efforts raised more money for the school than had been advanced in any previous year, they still fell considerably short of their goal of \$21,000. Nevertheless, Gallagher and other school board members believed that future fund-raising efforts might have produced double or even triple the amount raised this year.

Meanwhile, diocesan attempts to attract

new students, registration at St. Mary's in March tallied only 49 students, down from 65 last year.

School board president Judy Hunter pointed to tuition increases as a possible reason for the drop in enrollment. Tuition at St. Mary's was raised last fall by \$100, to \$700 per year. An additional \$50 increase was planned for the 1987-88 school year.

But even with the increases, parents were paying less than one-third of the 1986-87 total per-pupil cost of \$2,200. In 1987-88, per-pupil cost would have been nearly \$3,000, according to parish council president William Dinehart.

"The high cost of education with this very low enrollment is a very heavy burden for a parish of this size," Father Albert Ryan said in an interview last week. "We have not gone into debt... but you have to cut everything that you put everything you have into the school."

Although members of the parish council and finance committee believed that finances clearly dictated closing St. Mary's, the final decision was difficult.

"Maybe you think it was coming," Father Ryan said, "but are you ever really prepared for it?"

Beyond the bleak prospect of closing the school, Father Ryan believed the move would allow the parish to use its resources to meet such other needs as family religious education, youth ministry and outreach to the elderly.