

Syracuse's Bishop Harrison resigns at 75; New York auxiliary appointed

Washington (NC). — Auxiliary Bishop Joseph T. O'Keefe of New York has been named bishop of Syracuse, N.Y., succeeding Bishop Frank J. Harrison, whose resignation was accepted by Pope John Paul II.

Bishop Harrison, who will reach the mandatory retirement age of 75 on August 20, has headed the Syracuse Diocese since 1976. Bishop O'Keefe, who has been an auxiliary in the New York Archdiocese since 1982, was described by Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York as his "right-hand man."

The resignation and appointment were

announced June 16 in Washington, D.C., by Archbishop Pio Laghi, apostolic pronuncio to the United States.

Bishop O'Keefe, 68, a native of New York, has served as vicar general of the Archdiocese of New York and pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Manhattan, since 1978.

He also has been associate superintendent of schools and coordinator of instructional television; associate secretary for education and coordinator of the study of education; secretary for education; and chancellor and consular.

Cardinal O'Connor said Bishop O'Keefe "has demonstrated his capabilities in count-

less ways" and "has been an outstanding bishop, a self-sacrificing servant of the Archdiocese of New York, a priceless friend."

Bishop O'Keefe said he was "humbled" by the trust the pope placed in him by appointing him bishop of Syracuse.

He praised Bishop Harrison and said that "the loyalty of the people of the diocese is a tribute not only to them but to Bishop Harrison as well."

Bishop O'Keefe taught at Mercy College, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.; St. Joseph Seminary,

Yonkers; and Cardinal Hayes High School, New York.

Born May 12, 1919, he attended Cathedral College, New York; St. Joseph Seminary; and The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. He was ordained a priest April 17, 1948.

Bishop Harrison, the first native-born bishop of Syracuse, was appointed auxiliary bishop of Syracuse March 9, 1971, and was appointed bishop Nov. 9, 1976. He was installed Feb. 2, 1977.

Bishop Harrison celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood June 4.

McQuaid

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According to Father James Keenan, SJ, rector-president at McQuaid, the state department of education in all 50 states nominated 670 schools for the honor. Each state was allowed to nominate as many public schools as it has senators and representatives in Congress. The Council for American Private Education also nominated 130 schools.

The schools were judged by a panel of 71 reviewers, only a third of whom were educators, on a wide range of attributes including the educational climate, attendance rates for students and faculty, student test scores, dropout rates and whether a school is drug-free. Federal officials also check the school's civil right's record.

Father Nochelski said that the 21-page dossier, which was put together by himself, Father Keenan and Assistant Principal Frank Kamp, covered every aspect of the school's attributes — "especially two, the drug and alcohol programs."

Father Nochelski said McQuaid did well in its rating for drug and alcohol programs because of its emphasis on self-help programs.

How well each school taught citizenship and the U.S. Constitution, which is 200 years

old this year, was also emphasized.

Overall, the schools are rated on what the federal agency referred to as "14 attributes of successful schools and seven indicators of accomplishment."

The 14 attributes are: clear academic goals; high expectations for students; order, discipline and freedom from drug use; rewards and incentives for students; regular monitoring of student progress; development

Southern Tier

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Now is a good time for the renewed emphasis on evangelization because U.S. Catholics are in the middle of a religious revival, according to Gallup. Although weekly Mass attendance has declined, he said there has been "a dramatic upsurge of participation in nearly all other types of religious activity."

To improve evangelization efforts, Gallup called for improved treatment of the separated, divorced and remarried and for more Bible study programs.

He urged priests to be sensitive to the impact they have on people, saying "a large number of Catholics left the church because of bad experiences with priests, and many are prevented from coming back by fear of similar experiences."

of character and values; teacher input and staff development; rewards and incentives for teachers; concentration on academics; positive climate; administrative leadership; well-articulated curriculum; evaluation for instructional improvement; and community support.

The seven indicators are: student scores on achievement tests; student scores on minimum competency tests; student success

Paulist Father Don Pologruto and Carrie and Gary Kemp of Minneapolis outlined how their parish team invites inactive Catholics to attend a three-week program of "sharing sessions" and later a 12-week instruction series.

"In our ministry, we attempt to reopen channels of communication between the Church and those who feel isolated from it," Mrs. Kemp said.

By the end of the third sharing session, "the group has become community to one another, at least some of the anger has dissipated and what seems to be a process of faith conversion has begun to take place," she said.

Father Pologruto urged: "Let's not be Sunday evangelizers only. Let's remember that God is with us all week long, wherever we are, and especially when we are dealing with other people. We are Jesus' hands and feet and heart here on earth. We need to ask

in high school or postsecondary education; attendance rates for both students and teachers, and student suspensions and exclusions; dropout rates; awards for outstanding programs and teaching; and student awards in academic or vocational competitions.

"You can't hide much under the rug when they're here," Father Nochelski joked when referring to the agency's three-day visit to McQuaid last winter.

God to help us see Jesus in one another, because sometimes difficult people make it hard for us to see that on our own."

Practically speaking, the advantage of the teleconference for local audiences was the cost. "We had 23 people from St. Patrick's," Sister Smith said. "We couldn't afford to send that many people to Washington for a national conference, but we could afford to bring the conference here."

The smoothness of the teleconference resolved any doubts Sister Smith had about whether a seven-hour teleconference could sustain an audience's interest. "I wasn't quite sure how stimulating that long a media presentation would be," she said. "They did just an incredible job of tying everything together ... The time went very quickly — so much so that people didn't want to go home."

(This story was compiled from local and NC News Service reports.)

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