



Jubilant jubilation

In this week's annual Jubilee Mass, the Diocese of Rochester honored 13 priests — including Bishop Matthew H. Clark — who are marking 25 and 50 years of priestly service. Page 16.



Sectional scramble

As the regular seasons wind down, diocesan softball and baseball teams look to capture berths in the upcoming sectional tournaments, which begin later this month. Pages 8 and 9.

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Diocese releases school asbestos-inspection plan

By Lee Strong

Diocesan schools will jointly pay an estimated \$385,000 within the next two years to have their facilities inspected for asbestos, according to a plan released May 11 by the Diocese of Rochester.

The cost to each of the 76 Catholic elementary and secondary schools that chooses to participate in the plan will depend upon the size of the school.

The cost of actually removing or containing the asbestos in these schools could amount to several million dollars more, according to Environmental Protection Agency estimates and local sources. The total cost will not be known until the inspection results are available in October. Inspections are expected to begin in June.

But more significantly, the high price of asbestos management could cost the diocese one or more of its schools.

After diocesan officials presented the plan to a group of pastors on April 27, Father Richard J. Shatzel, pastor of St. Philip Neri Church, said that although the parish is committed to operating the school for the 1988-89 school year, in 1989, "asbestos may add a further factor into the decision of whether or not to keep the school open."

"We expect to be bankrupt in 1989, even without this," Father Shatzel said. If the parish does decide to keep the school open in 1989-90, it would likely have to borrow money to pay for implementation of the asbestos management plan — unless the state or the diocese helps, Father Shatzel said.

"There will be no money (for removal or containment); there will be a stand-off," he said.

Other parishes, however, do not expect to be so severely affected by the costs. Father Joseph D'Aurizio, pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Greece, said that the cost of inspection — estimated at \$2,000-3,000 — while substantial, would not pose a great problem for St. John's, which operates on a million-dollar budget. Moreover, he remarked, the parish has no choice in the matter.

"It's money that we have to spend in terms of the federal regulations," the priest said. More importantly, he added, "We have to be concerned with the health of the children."

Rochester's inspection plan is the result of



Workers removing asbestos must wear protective clothing and masks in order to avoid inhaling potentially carcinogenic particles. Beginning in June, diocesan schools will be inspected for asbestos, at an estimated cost of \$385,000.

several months of research and consultation by the diocese. This process included studies of federal and state statutes; analysis of programs being implemented in other New York state dioceses; discussions with public school districts on their programs; and meetings with consulting firms.

The diocesan plan is designed to comply with state and federal requirements that all public and parochial schools complete asbestos

inspections and submit management plans for containment or removal to the state by October 12, 1988.

Schools that fail to comply with the EPA and state regulations and procedures by the October 12 deadline will be subject to fines of as much as \$5,000 per day.

Under the diocesan plan, each school will be responsible for the cost of inspection and of implementing the resulting management

plan for removal and/or containment of asbestos in its own facilities. To date, no one has determined how the schools will pay for the required treatment, according to Father Peter T. Bayer, diocesan chancellor.

One funding avenue being explored is state aid, Father Bayer said. In conjunction with other New York dioceses, Rochester has written to Governor Cuomo asking that money be

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Monroe County Catholic schools adopt regional structure

By Teresa A. Parsons

The Genesee River and Main Street form the backbone of a new regional structure for governing and supporting Monroe County's Catholic schools.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced that all Monroe County parishes and schools will be organized into four geographic quadrants, bounded in general by the county line, the river and Main Street.

The new quadrant structure will mean that Catholic schools will no longer plan for or govern themselves on an independent, local level, but instead will work on a regional, inter-parochial level.

"The quadrants will be cooperative ventures coming to Bishop Clark with a plan, rather than as isolated, individual parishes," explained Sister Roberta Tierney, director of the diocesan Division of Education. "This has a lot of Church value — using people and communities to come together and work for common goals."

Chris Schramm, a member of the Implementation Committee that developed the quadrant plan, also believes quadrant government will begin to dispel "this 'Big Brother' idea that the pastoral office will take care of

everything.

"The burden will now be shifted," she observed. "(Schools and parishes) will have to rely on each other ... They're going to rise or fall according to that."

Each parish — including those without Catholic schools — in a given quadrant has been asked to name a representative to what will be known as the quadrant planning board. Pastors, principals and religious educators will also be represented on these boards, most of which will begin meeting later this month to develop recommendations for governing and reconfiguring the schools in a given area.

Each of the four quadrant planning boards is expected to submit recommendations for Bishop Clark's approval by December 1, 1989. Once the recommendations are finalized, a quadrant governance board will be chosen to implement whatever changes are required.

Sister Tierney expects a committee charged with establishing a structure and bylaws for the governance boards to have completed its task by June 1989. But she explained, "there will never be a totally final plan."

"What there will be is definite criteria about when moves have to take place and where," she said.

The quadrant plan grew from the work of two diocesan committees and several subcommittees studying education.

The Implementation Committee, headed by William Dillon, developed the quadrant system as part of its effort to carry out Bishop Clark's February, 1986, plan for the future of elementary schools in Monroe County and the City of Rochester.

Meanwhile, one of eight recommendations in the Five Year Financial Planning Process Task Force report, released last April, called for the further consolidation of diocesan schools. In response, a committee headed by Timothy Leahy has worked with the Implementation Committee, and has also established three subcommittees working on planning for: the 22 elementary and secondary schools outside Monroe County; the six Monroe County secondary schools; and fundraising needs and options.

Earlier this month, each subcommittee presented a draft report to the Five Year Financial Planning Task Force, which is expected to complete a final report on all eight recommendations for Bishop Matthew H. Clark by the end of June.

Sister Tierney does not expect the commit-

tees to propose any further school-level changes for the 1988-89 school year. But parish, school and diocesan leaders seem to have reached the conclusion that Catholic education can't survive without reconfiguration.

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