

Small-town

Continued on Page 4A

ethical values. "It all goes together — in order to have some Christian background later in life you need to learn it early on," he noted.

An integrated approach to Catholic education is also emphasized at St. Joseph's in Wayland, but from a different perspective.

Last year, following the closing of the school's seventh- and eighth-grades, Father Paul Schnacky announced a radical plan to do away with formal tuition in the school. Instead, parishioners were asked to contribute what they would normally pay in tuition to the Sunday collection. At the same time, all school fundraisers were abolished, and parents were urged to attend Sunday Mass with their families and to participate in more parish activities. Meanwhile, school activities were expanded to include the students in the CCD program.

"The idea that I had is that the school is ministry of the whole parish, so it shouldn't be a sub-unit subsidized by the parish," Father Schnacky explained. "The school should not be the bucket in which you put thousands of dollars; it should be the funnel to reach out to the parents and families."

Father Schnacky's gamble appears to be working. The Sunday collections increased enough to offset the loss of tuition, he reported, and attendance at Sunday Masses has increased, particularly in terms of families. The school's enrollment, moreover, will increase this year from 170 to more than 190 students.

"I think in a small town there's more of a feeling for the school, a sense that it brings the people together," the pastor said. "Nobody else can do it. There's no other institution in town that has access to so many parents. It's a means to call people together and give them something substantial."

As part of the efforts to integrate the school more into parish life, the building is being used for more social and educational events. Last year, for example, the parish held a four-part series for parents on education and love. The school has also been used for sacramental preparation classes for parents, and for community groups and activities.

Father Schnacky acknowledged that the parish and the school still face some financial problems, but he believes the school's fate ultimately lies in the hands of God.

"My theology is that if we do the Lord's work and concentrate on that, then the Lord will give us the means to do it," Father Schnacky said.

Finding the means to keep a school open in the face of declining enrollment and rising costs is the task facing St. Agnes in Avon. Last year it had the lowest enrollment in the diocese — just 75. The enrollment figures for this

year are not yet in, but they will probably be about the same, according to Father Charles Bennett, the parish's pastor.

"It's a financial difficulty for the parish because the tuition and fundraising are all affected in a negative way by the small number of families in the school," the pastor observed.

The school has experienced ongoing problems for at least the past eight years, the pastor noted, but observed that "the fact that it has been going for eight years in spite of the problems is proof that there is support for the school."

Although Father Bennett noted that the parish school has a strong sense of tradition and a desire to keep it going, he acknowledged that the reality of declining enrollment and increasing costs is forcing a decision.

"I don't know when we will reach the breaking point," Father Bennett said. "I'm waiting to see the diocesan consolidation plan. It may relieve some of the burden. But if it's going to cost more money to keep the school open, then we'll have to say it may be impossible to maintain it."

In that regard, St. Agnes is typical of many small town schools — and of schools in every segment of the diocese: the ultimate factor in deciding to remain open is money.

"When it comes down to it, it's money that's a problem," Father Michatek acknowledged. "We have to raise consciousness among the people to get them to act. I hope that everyone gets excited and digs down and raises the money."

Father Teuschel concurred, noting that fiscal solvency today is no guarantee for the future. "I think all the schools are struggling in some way," he said. "It's the people; if they want it, they will go out and work for it."

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

"The elementary and secondary schools of the Diocese of Rochester admit students of any sex, race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs."

"College shouldn't be a sink or swim proposition."

Dr. William Pickett, President

"At Fisher, we take the success of our students personally. So we emphasize academics and individual attention—from faculty and advisors to tutors and counselors.

"If you want to continue your education in an environment in which people get involved, include Fisher in your plans."

For information and a course brochure, call (716) 385-8064.

ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE
3690 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

SAFETY FIRST



Students of all ages will be returning to school soon. In some school districts, small children will be walking to school for the first time. We ask that you exercise extreme caution!

PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

THIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS

PIEHLER PONTIAC
1560 Lake Ave.
Rochester, New York
458-4540



Famous for Quality Sausage & Meat Products Since 1880

651 Plymouth Ave. N., Rochester, NY 14608

ROCHESTER AREA
Abells

Roger J. Robach
State Assemblyman
134th District

NOTHNAGLE REALTORS
Rochester's Largest Realty Company



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL



SECURITY SYSTEMS
16 Capron Street • Rochester, NY 14607
716-546-6120

THE GENESEE BREWING COMPANY, INC.
Rochester, New York 14605

IMPCO
100 Rockwood Street
Rochester, New York 14610
473-1432

ROSETTO FOODS
Frozen Food Products
10 White Street
Rochester, New York
546-7506

CONGRESSMAN FRANK HORTON
29th Congressional District
Authorized by the Congressman Horton Committee
Neil Norry, Treasurer

ELDRIDGE, FOX and PORRETTI C.P.A.s

VIC & IRV'S RESTAURANT
SEA BREEZE, N.Y.

Assemblywoman
AUDRE "PINNY" COOKE
132nd DISTRICT
Brighton • Irondequoit
Eastside of City

COURIER-JOURNAL

1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, New York 14624-1899
(716) 328-4340

MONROE AMBULANCE



#1 in patient care
24 hr. emergency ambulance service

call direct 454-6210

The children of today are the future of tomorrow
Please Drive Carefully
NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL
1400 Maple Avenue
Elmira, New York 14904
607-734-2267

"Please Use Caution" Approaching A Stopped School Bus



UPSTATE MILK COOPERATIVE
THE REAL MILK PEOPLE