



Dubious donations

Area food banks, shelters and clothing collection centers receive many useless gifts from well-intentioned — and sometimes not so well-intentioned — contributors. Page 7.



Priestly predicament

A priest is tied for the murder of a nun he loved in Aquinas Institute's production of "The Runner Stumbles," set in a Michigan mining town at the turn of the century. Page 10.

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Linda Dow-Hayes/Courier-Journal



SECTIONAL SETBACKS — At right, Nick Teta, head coach of the Bishop Kearney football team, talks with his players following Friday night's Section 5 Class AA semifinal loss to Greece Arcadia. Far right, McQuaid Jesuit High School's Chris Teerlinck reflects on his team's loss Wednesday night, November 2, in the boys' Class A semifinals against Webster. Above, sweeper Joan Graham of Cardinal Mooney comes up against a Pittsford Mendon defenseman during the girl's Class BB soccer finals won by the Vikings on Saturday, November 5. For details on the games, see page 12.

Bishop names commission to reorganize schools

By Lee Strong

After months of delay and anticipation, the Diocese of Rochester has formed a nine-member board to decide on a plan for reorganizing Catholic schools within the diocese.

The Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools — to be headed by William Pickett, president of St. John Fisher College — will review recommendations from nine groups already studying Catholic schools in the diocese. The commission will then frame a plan for restructuring these schools, for implementation in September, 1990.

"We don't intend to study Catholic schools — they've been studied to death," Pickett said. "The role of the commission is to turn the recommendations (of existing groups) into a coherent plan for action. We are to make recommendations (to Bishop Matthew Clark) that are clear, implementable, concise and ready for action. Ours will be a definite plan for action."

"I think what we're really trying to come up with in this is an action body," explained Father John Mulligan, moderator of the Pastoral Center. "This is not a study body. This is not going to come up with another paper. This is going to help us decide what to do."

Once the commission makes its recommendations to Bishop Clark, the Division of Edu-

cation and parishes will be charged with implementing them, Pickett said. At that point, the commission will cease to exist.

The commission will base its recommendations on information and plans submitted to it by nine bodies already examining Catholic schools in the diocese: the four Monroe County quadrant planning boards; the three cluster planning boards dealing with schools outside Monroe County; an informal group representing Catholic high schools in Monroe County; and the Implementation Committee for Catholic Elementary School Planning for the City of Rochester and Monroe County.

The newly formed commission, which is directly accountable to Bishop Clark, results from a recommendation of the Subcommittee on Catholic Schools of the diocesan Five-year Financial Planning Task Force.

In creating the commission, Bishop Clark charged its members with four priorities: to enhance the quality of education in Catholic schools; to maintain the Catholic nature of the schools; to consider the needs of the poor; and to develop a plan that is financially feasible. The commission will also make recommendations concerning Hispanic students, multicultural education, racial balance and funding.

"The Rochester City School District is undergoing the same kind of planning and recon-

sideration of the mission of education that we plan to do," Pickett said. "While the two are not directly related, it's clear that the Catholic schools and public schools draw from the same base of children and share many of the same challenges."

Joining Pickett on the commission are: John Crowe, a former member of the Five-Year Financial Planning Task Force who will serve as the vice chairman of the commission; Brother David Andrews, CSC, the national Director of Education for the Holy Cross Order; Father Michael Conboy, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish in Irondequoit; Sister Barbara Hamm, RSM, principal of St. John the Evangelist School; Timothy Leahy, former superintendent of Catholic schools for the diocese; Constance Mitchell, program director of Program for Rochester to Interest Students in Science and Mathematics; Irene Rivera de Royston, a counselor at Monroe Community College; and Peter Spinelli, chairman of the Diocesan Board of Education.

Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, diocesan superintendent of schools, will provide staff support to the commission from the Division of Education.

The commission members were chosen from suggestions submitted to Bishop Clark by Father Mulligan, Brother Walsh and Sister

Roberta Tierney, director of the Division of Education. Bishop Clark added names to the list as well.

"I think we were looking for people whom we felt ... would adhere to tight time lines," explained Father Mulligan. "People who had some experience with schools. People who had

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