

## et cetera

## Commission

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some experience with organization and management. And people who would be sensitive to the human factor involved in this."

The human factor will be an important consideration in making decisions, Pickett acknowledged. The commission's final recommendations may include the closing of some schools and the reorganization of others — decisions that will directly affect people who have struggled for years to keep their schools open. In addition, the commission will have to keep in mind the feelings of committee and group members who have been studying schools over the last few years.

The commission, which is independent from the Division of Education, is responsible only to Bishop Clark. The bishop has given the commission authority over existing school planning groups, some of which — like the Northeast Quadrant Planning Board — have been working for nearly two years. The commission will have the power to tell the groups that their recommendations might need further work, or do not fit in with the broader diocesan plan.

"If the commission feels that a plan was not making sense or is not compatible with the overall plan, we will say to the planning board that we will not be able to recommend this for action to the bishop," Pickett said.

At the same time, commission members must keep in mind the amount of work the members of the groups have already done, observed commission vice chairman, John Crowe. "Our first priority is to make sure that their work does not go unreviewed or unlistened to, and that they are aware of the common game plan," he said.

One possible source of confusion may be the commission's sole focus on reorganizing the diocesan school system. The planning groups, meanwhile, are examining broader aspects of Catholic education — including religious education and adult education. To help avoid confusion about the differing roles of the commission and of the planning groups, Pickett said he intends to meet with group leaders as soon as possible. "I want to make sure they have a common sense of what their mission was," he said. "What I hope they will see is that it's clear where their efforts will go."

Pickett has already met with the chairmen of two of the quadrant planning boards. Because the quadrants and the clusters are at

different stages of formation, some do not have clear leadership at this point, he added.

Another sensitive area the commission will address is the possible formation of regional elementary schools and more regional junior high schools. Pickett sees the junior highs in particular as being one of the first issues for the commission to consider. Among the points to be resolved are whether to form more junior highs, which grade levels they will encompass, what their programs will offer, and where they will be located. "Decisions about junior highs will impact decisions about the high schools, (and) about K-6," he noted.

Determinations about regional elementary schools and junior highs will also involve decisions about financing, Pickett said.

"We need financial models for how they will work," he remarked. "Pastors want to know, 'If I don't have a school, what do I have to pay to support a school in another parish?' Can they be made to? There's a lot of financial and canonical issues that need to be addressed. We have to get that clarified so that people can deal with some specifics."

A further question is what will happen once the school system is restructured and the commission is dissolved in 1990. What if further changes are needed in the future?

"I would hope that there would not need to be continuing restructuring," Pickett said. He acknowledged, however, that some sort of governing structure will be needed, adding that this topic will be one the commission will address.

According to Sister Tierney, diocesan officials are already discussing the idea of turning the quadrant and cluster planning boards into governance boards. The governance boards might then report to the diocesan Board of Education. "The Board of Education is the bishop's official consultative body," she said. "They may have to change their constitution to take on new duties."

Pickett would like to see the informal group representing high schools become a more structured body. Under the restructuring of schools, the commission may well recommend that some high schools be closed.

Although the high schools are owned by the congregations that operate them and do not fall directly under diocesan control, Sister Tierney said that she anticipates that the schools will comply with the restructuring plan. "There is a spirit of cooperation there," she noted.

"To me, collaboration is the key word," Father Mulligan remarked. "I think ideally the commission hopes to work collaboratively with people. I don't think they really see themselves as handing the word down from on high."

"We're going to work this thing out together," Father Mulligan concluded. "At the same time, the notion of the commission is that we're going to have to get it worked out."

## Cyclists

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The cyclists also had to contend with such problems as slashed tires in Amarillo, Texas, and a hostile reception in Albuquerque, N.M., where residents disputed homeless people's use of vacant buildings.

The worst part of the trip came during the first week, Cardinali said. None of the riders was an experienced biker, so they suffered sore muscles after riding an average of 85 miles a day. They also had to contend with frequent flat tires — six on the second day alone. And the first leg of the trip passed through the deserts of California, Arizona and New Mexico, where the cyclists had to face temperatures that frequently soared above 100 degrees. In Texas, they battled 30-mile-per-hour winds from Hurricane Gilbert.

Yet such obstacles were more than offset by the hospitality of the people they met along the way.

"People were really friendly and generous," Brennan said. "We didn't know where we were going to stay, but almost every night we were given a place to stay."

With their journey now over, the group members will go their separate ways. Brennan and Cardinali will travel back to California to return the van and to tie up loose ends from the trip. Brennan said he would then come back to Rochester to look for work.

Cardinali, meanwhile, will continue to work at St. Joseph Center in Venice until next spring. He is thinking of going to law school in the fall of 1989.

"I think ultimately I want to get involved with public-interest law," Cardinali said. "I've kind of confirmed that feeling through the work I've done."

## St. James receives grants for rehabilitation programs

St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell has received two grants from the New York State Division of Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse for alcoholism rehabilitation and preventive programs. The announcement was made by William Connors, St. James Mercy Hospital Vice President for Planning and MercyCare Administration.

The first is a grant of \$150,000 for an inpatient alcoholism rehabilitation unit at MercyCare, a division of St. James Mercy Hospital. The money will be used for renovation of the former maternity wing for purchase of equipment and furnishings.

More than 200 people a year are expected to be treated at the inpatient rehabilitation unit, which is expected to be in operation by April. The average stay is expected to be three to four weeks and the program is designed to help persons live a chemical-free lifestyle.

The unit at MercyCare will have sleeping room for 20 clients, a large area for group therapy and structured events, and rooms for individual and family counseling.

A second grant of \$14,784 for an alcohol and chemical abuse program at St. James Mercy Hospital has also been approved and will be put into operation in the immediate future.

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