



### Partners in ministry

The diocese plans for pastoral leadership the 1990s with the Commitment to Ministry process and the hiring of a lay personnel director. Page 7.



### Whirlwind Week

Abortion and potential school closings made news throughout the diocese last week, with both topics provoking fresh controversy and interest. Page 3.

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## Education director resigns post

By Teresa A. Parsons

The director of the diocesan Division of Education, Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, has announced she will resign in June.

After more than 16 years serving as an diocesan educational administrator — the last 13 as education director — the 50-year-old Rochester native will take a year's sabbatical, beginning June 30, 1989, before returning to her roots in local parish ministry.



Although Sister Tierney announced her resignation last week in the midst of a new wave of controversy over a proposed restructuring plan for the Catholic schools in the northeast quadrant of Monroe County, she claims that her decision to resign comes after long consideration.

Four years ago, she said, counselors from the Connecticut province of her congregation, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, began questioning her about future plans. Although Sister Tierney said the province gave her permission to begin a sabbatical last year and then to undertake a new ministry, she opted to delay her departure from the education division for a year.

"I felt there were some projects we were still very much in the middle of," she explained, naming the Monroe County school-planning process and the development of certification standards for religious educators as two examples. "This year, I felt that the tools for planning were in place, that the research and background had been done ... I don't feel that things will be abandoned."

In addition to serving as administrative headquarters for Catholic elementary and secondary schools throughout the 12-county diocese, the Division of Education, which Sister Tierney heads, encompasses the departments of religious education, continuing education, youth ministry, communications and Christian family renewal.

But the diocese had no divisional structure when the former principal of St. Philip Neri School succeeded Father Daniel Brent as diocesan superintendent for schools in 1976. Nor were there any other women serving in the diocesan administration. At the time of her ap-



Visitors to the gallery were treated to a simulated Hindu wedding as part of the day's activities. The "bride," Natasha Palit feeds "groom" Prithvi Mruthyunjaya some Indian wedding cake.



Shashi Sharma (right) wraps volunteer Mabel Silver in a sari during "India Day: A Celebration of Indian Art and Culture" Jan. 15, at the Memorial Art Gallery.



Sheena Matthew and Veena Jayadeva adorn themselves with costumes and jewelry in preparation for their performance of an Indian dance.

pointment, Sister Tierney was the only woman attending meetings of the state Catholic-school superintendents' association.

She recalls her rapid advancement through diocesan school ranks as being unplanned. "I was always interested in education, in administration, and in working with people ... but it was not a planned progression of steps," she said. "I guess I just happened to be in the right place at the right time."

A 1952 graduate of St. Michael's School in Rochester, she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame and earned a bachelor's degree in 1965 from Seton Hall University. After a brief stint as a teacher in Brooklyn, Sister Tierney returned to Rochester in 1962 to teach at St. Margaret Mary School in Irondequoit. Six years

later, she moved to St. Philip Neri as principal. After earning a master's degree in education from SUNY Buffalo, she was named diocesan assistant superintendent for curriculum in 1973, rising to deputy superintendent the following year.

When former Bishop Joseph Hogan in 1978 reorganized the diocese into five divisions, he chose Sister Tierney, who was then school superintendent, to direct the education division, which at that time consisted only of Catholic-school administration and religious education. During her tenure as director, she helped to establish the Office of Youth Ministry and the Office of Communications. She also worked to consolidate the diocese's various forms of educational ministry, helping to bring about the

1979 transfer of the Department of Continuing Education from the Division of Personnel, and helping to establish the diocesan Board of Education.

Sister Tierney credited Bishops Hogan and Matthew Clark with the ease of her acceptance as an administrator. "I never felt that because I was a woman and not ordained I couldn't participate fully," she said.

Sister Tierney has presided over diocesan school administration during a tumultuous period of eroding enrollment, rising costs and school closings. She assumed the job in the wake of the demise of an inner-city network of schools and parishes, known as the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP). Several years

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## Anti-Semitic items sold by former Franciscan

By Rob Cullivan

ROCHESTER — "There is a Zionist conspiracy to rule the world."

"The Jews killed Christ and still work against his followers."

"Jewish bankers have financed communist revolutions and are disproportionately represented in leftist circles."

Slogans of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party? Anti-Semitic rhetoric of another era?

No, these are the assertions of *The Other Israel*, a one-hour videotape now on sale at the Franciscan Friary's bookstore, 3376 Mt. Read Boulevard. The friary is run by Father Louis Vezelis, a former Franciscan who was expelled from the order in 1978. A vocal opponent of Vatican-II, he has frequently gained media attention for claiming the post-Vatican II Mass is illegitimate and that he is a Roman Catholic

bishop. The tape, along with the bookstore's anti-Semitic literature, has now gained the attention of local religious leaders, most notably the Rev. Kenneth Dean, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rochester.

The Rev. Dean bought the tape and some anti-Semitic books at the bookstore, after learning of their availability two weeks ago. Since then, he has met with a variety of local Christian and Jewish leaders, including Margery Nurnberg, diocesan director of ecumenical and interreligious affairs, to discuss an appropriate response.

Nurnberg is also chairwoman of the Commission for Christian-Jewish Relations, which is made of up local Christian churches and Jewish temples. She said the commission will meet Jan. 23 to discuss the literature.

*The Other Israel*, narrated by the Rev. Ted

Pike, an independent Baptist minister from Oregon, combines traditional anti-Semitic ideas into a grand indictment of rabbinic Judaism as a whole, implicating rabbis in sex abuse and power-grabbing throughout Middle Eastern, Eastern European and American history.

The tape calls for a national movement to stem pro-Israeli sentiment in the U.S. political system, and implies that amid this movement, God will destroy the Jewish people in the process. The film cautions viewers not to assist God in destroying the Jews, implying that violence — not anti-Semitism — is the mistake that brought down the Nazis.

The Rev. Dean said he had questioned a priest at the bookstore about *The Other Israel* and that the priest termed the film an "expose of Zionism." The minister thought otherwise.

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