

Mooney community awaits word of school's future

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

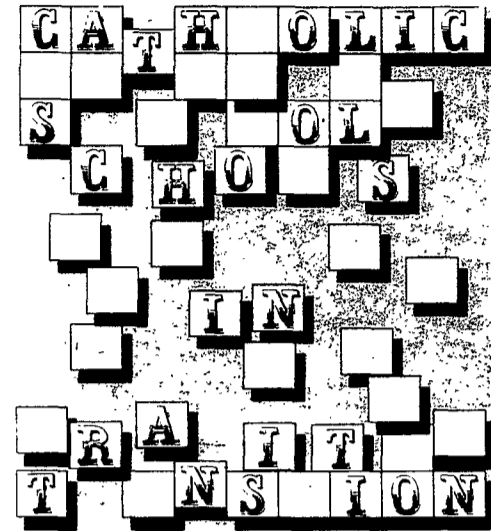
ROCHESTER — Diocesan officials and leaders of the Holy Cross Brothers were scheduled to meet on Wednesday, May 10, with 12 representatives of the Cardinal Mooney community to discuss the scheduled closing of the high school next month, according to Father George Norton, diocesan spokesman.

Participants, led by David Michael Barry, were to meet at an undisclosed time and place with Father John Mulligan, moderator of the diocesan pastoral office, and Brother Paul Rahaim, president of Cardinal Mooney's board of trustees and provincial of the Holy Cross Brothers, the order which operates the high school.

Barry noted that his group would put forth several proposals to keep the school open, but did not disclose the details of any plan.

Father Norton said that details of the meeting would be fully disclosed on

Thursday, May 11. Meanwhile, Barry estimated that more than 1,500 people had signed a petition asking the diocese to keep the school open. Several hundred have also pledged a total sum exceeding \$40,000 to keep the school open.



Funds pledged so far would not make much of a dent in Mooney's \$700,000 operating deficit. Dave Resch, chairman of Mooney's executive committee, said the money pledged was enough to convince the Holy Cross Brothers to keep the school open. The deficit and declining enrollment were the major reasons school and diocesan officials have stated for their decision to close the Greece high school.

Barry acknowledged that the funds pledged so far are minimal, but added that before many people donate, they are waiting to see whether the May 10 meeting will result in the school staying open. If a plan is put into place to keep the school open, Barry predicted a "tremendous rush" of support for a resurrected Mooney.

Brother Lawrence Atkinson, spokesman for Mooney, said the closing and the subsequent flood of support for maintaining the school have left many students reluctant to register at other Catholic high schools. He noted, however, that it is

likely that the bulk of the student body will transfer to Bishop Kearney High School.

Brother Atkinson said that the Holy Cross Brothers have been talking with officials from the Greece Central School District for a year. However, the talks did not involve closing the school this year and selling the school building to the district. Rather, the Holy Cross Brothers were looking to lease part of the building to the Greece district to help offset the school's deficit, he said.

The brother's statement came in response to parents' angry reaction to reports of negotiations between Mooney and the school district — an anger Brother Atkinson said was based on a false impression.

If the school is closed as scheduled, Brother Atkinson said, the Mooney building would most likely be leased, rather than sold. But first, he said, the diocese and the Holy Cross Brothers must agree on what to do with the building, as stipulated when the school was opened in 1961.

Blessed Sacrament pins hopes on future in southeast region

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Despite disappointment over the scheduled June, 1990, closing of their school, officials and school parents at Blessed Sacrament Junior High are prepared to go along with the decision.

The school, at 546 Oxford St., is being closed under the reorganization plan of the Northeast Quadrant Planning Board — one of four planning boards reorganizing Monroe County's Catholic schools. The plan, which has been approved by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, will also close five elementary schools in the northeast over the next two years, and establish a diocesan-operated junior high on the premises of Bishop Kearney High School in September, 1990.

Following the closing of Blessed Sacrament Junior High, the building will be considered in the planning process of the Southeast Quadrant Planning Board.

"I'm willing to support the decision accepted by the Bishop and the Commission (on Reorganization of Catholic Schools) as to the junior high program at Bishop Kearney," said Sister Elizabeth Snyder, principal of Blessed Sacrament, in a statement issued after the announcement of the closing. "My concern continues to be that of city presence and quality education for students who are in the rest of the city."

Sister Snyder alluded to a concern shared by the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools, a nine-member body studying the various plans submitted by

groups working on reorganizing Monroe County's Catholic school system. The commission, headed by St. John Fisher College President William Pickett, had refused to recommend a junior high at Kearney before studying whether such a junior high would serve the needs of urban students.

The commission even considered establishing a separate junior high, but eventually ruled against it, Pickett said, because creating two junior highs might diminish the quality of both by taxing the school system's limited financial resources.

Richard Sadowski, president of Blessed Sacrament's parish council, expressed disappointment over the decision to close the school, but noted that the school was "warned well in advance," that it might close. Sadowski foresaw no resistance to the decision, remarking that since the school will now be considered in the southeast quadrant planning process, there may be room for optimism.

Dale O'Dell, a member of Blessed Sacrament's school board, hopes to see the school building become the southeast's junior high or an elementary school. He also noted that most of the parents with whom he has talked plan to wait and see where the southeast junior high program will be established, rather than send their children to the northeast junior high at Kearney.

"They live in the city for a reason," O'Dell said of the school parents, commenting that most want their children to remain in an urban junior high.

Fairport parish men's club schedules golf tournament

The St. John of Rochester Men's Club has scheduled its annual bestball golf tournament for noon on Sunday, May 21, at Marvin's Golf Club in Macedon.

The cost of the tournament is \$20 per golfer, which includes greens fees, beverages and prizes.

An awards dinner for golfers and their spouses will take place following the tournament at 6 p.m. in the school hall, 10 Wickford Way., Fairport.

Summer volunteers needed for Meals on Wheels service

Meals on Wheels, which delivers meals to the elderly and home bound, needs volunteers in Rochester and Monroe County.

Volunteers are especially needed in the summer, when many people who normally provide the service take vacations.

For information on becoming a summer or permanent Meals on Wheels volunteer, call 716/482-0120, ext. 415.

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ST. STANISLAUS CHURCH-ST. STANISLAUS ST. ROCHESTER MAY 21, 1989 2 PM

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH-KING'S HIGHWAY. ROCHESTER MAY 23, 1989 7:30 PM

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Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments:

Father Michael R. Brown from deacon internship at St. Catherine's Church, Mendon, to priest internship at St. Mary's Church in Elmira, effective June 27, 1989.

Father Patrick L. Connor from parochial vicar at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Corning to parochial vicar at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, effective June 27, 1989.

Father John F. Gagnier, parochial vicar at St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, to concurrent responsibility as temporary administrator of Holy Cross Church in Ovid, effective May 5, 1989.

Father Michael A. McHale from deacon internship at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street in Rochester to priest internship at St. Pius Tenth Church in Chili, effective June 27, 1989.

Father Robert P. Ring from parochial vicar at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads to pastor of St. Augustine's Church in Rochester, effective June 27, 1989.

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