

# Diocese appoints new education director

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, has been named director of the diocesan Division of Education.

Sister Binsack succeeds Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, who will leave the post July 1 after 16 years as director. Sister Tierney plans to take a one-year sabbatical at Regis College in Toronto before returning to local parish ministry.

Sister Binsack has served the education division as director of religious education since 1981. Previously she taught at St. John's and St. Anne's parishes in Rochester, and served as executive secretary for the Diocesan Pastoral Council from

1975-79.

The diocesan Division of Education encompasses the Board of Education and the departments of general education, religious education, continuing education and youth ministry.

In the last two years, Sister Binsack has initiated, planned and overseen the development of a diocesan certification policy for catechetical leaders. In brief, the policy calls for catechetical leaders in the diocese to take part in 10 hours of ongoing formation each year and enroll in a program that certifies them to work for either a specific parish or any diocesan parish.

Sister Binsack said that her experience in implementing the new catechetical policy,

which becomes effective July 1, will be the most valuable asset she brings to her new position.

"I think I'll bring to my position an understanding of Bishop (Matthew H.) Clark's vision of a well-integrated catechetical plan," Sister Binsack said, adding that she had worked on the plan with parish leaders throughout the diocese and on numerous task forces, giving her a working knowledge of parishes' educational needs.

That knowledge will be needed as Sister Binsack inherits the problems associated with the reorganization of Catholic schools in Monroe County. Four schools were closed this year as a result of reorganization in northeastern Monroe County,

and four more — Cardinal Mooney High School, Our Lady of Good Counsel/Genesis Catholic Junior High and St. Anne's — are closing due to declining enrollment and financial woes.

Grass-roots opposition to some of the closings focused resentment on diocesan educational leaders. Sister Binsack said that she sees herself serving as a spokeswoman for the diocese in future reorganizational moves, and she noted that it is important for the diocese to keep in touch with its people.

"I think we have to continue to communicate with people in each of the quadrants about the system reorganization," she said, noting that she supported the reorganization of the school system.

In announcing the appointment, Bishop Clark said Sister Binsack "has an excellent grasp of the challenges we are facing. Her extensive knowledge of the parishes throughout our diocese as well as her experience at the pastoral office will enable her to hit the ground running at this critical point in our educational history."

# Hospital executive faces trial on charges

By Richard A. Kiley  
Staff writer

ELMIRA — A St. Joseph's Hospital executive who faces two felony charges relating to the alleged embezzlement of \$270,000 from the Elmira hospital pleaded innocent in Chemung County Court on Friday, June 2.

According to Chemung County District Attorney James T. Hayden, Jeffrey Katz, who lives at 908 Bowman Road in Elmira, is charged in a superior court information with two felony counts of second-degree grand larceny.

Hayden said the superior court information has the same effect as an indictment. Katz was arraigned by Chemung County Judge Samuel J. Castellino on June 2, and he paid \$20,000 in bail on June 5, Hayden said.

Katz, vice president in charge of rehabilitation, occupational health services, laboratory services and volunteers at St. Joseph's, is accused of creating bogus payment vouchers for nonexistent services supposedly provided to the hospital by various businesses and individuals, Hayden said. The embezzlement allegedly took place over the course of five years beginning June 2, 1984, he said.

"When the checks were issued by the hospital, he would allegedly sign them over to himself," said Hayden, who added that Katz is suspected of signing more than 1,500 checks over to himself.

Hayden said he was contacted by "high-level administrators" at the hospital to do an investigation on May 15.

If convicted, Katz could face a maximum of 22 years in jail, Hayden said.

In a prepared statement, John J. Renz, vice president for planning and marketing at St. Joseph's Hospital, said June 9 that the hospital "internally identified apparent financial irregularities involving an employee at the hospital" and that "the hospital contacted the Chemung County District Attorney's Office and supplied them with details of the apparent irregularities."

Renz added that it would be inappropriate for the hospital to comment any further on the investigation.

When asked what Katz's status at the hospital is at this time, Renz said, "he is not working here."

Katz came to St. Joseph's in 1976. He became administrative director of the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph's in 1979, and held that position until his promotion to vice president of the hospital five years ago.

Deacon Stanley Douglas, former community relations director for the hospital, said he was "very much surprised" when he was told of the accusations against Katz.

"I worked closely with him promoting rehabilitation (services) and marketing approaches," said Douglas, who is now working at Rochester General Hospital.

Although Douglas said he had "never known this to happen before," he said that through talking with officials at other hospitals, he has learned that embezzlement is "something that happens in hospitals more than people realize."

# Apostolate plans seminar on the mentally retarded

The 19th annual conference of the National Apostolate with Mentally Retarded Persons will take place August 2-5, at St. Norbert College in Green Bay, Wisc.

The apostolate's goal is "promoting an authentic participation in the life of the church for people who are mentally retarded."

Two keynote speakers will discuss "The Human Dimension of Collaboration." Patricia H. Livingston, an associate professor at Notre Dame University, will talk on "Learning from Life." Jeannine Goggin will speak on the theme of the conference, "Chart a Bold Course."

A number of workshops will take place during the conference, including "Canons for Persons with Mental Retardation," "Traps in Ministry," and "Effective Counseling with Persons with Developmental Disabilities."

Contact Barbara G. Schneider, P.O. Box 1825, Green Bay, Wisconsin, 54305, or call 414/437-7531 for information.

# Fisher offering program for gifted children

Gifted children between the ages of nine and 13 are invited to attend a program at St. John Fisher College this summer.

The Summer Arts Institute for Gifted Children, which will be offered July 11-21 and again August 1-11, is designed for intellectually gifted children who are interested in sharing their own talents and learning experiences through a variety of art forms. Daily classes will include instruction and participation in the visual, performing and communication arts. Children will be exposed to a wide variety of art forms and group projects, ranging from

dance, drama, literature and music to clay sculpturing, creative writing, storytelling and magic.

Both sessions will be offered Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The fee is \$225 for either two-week program. Dr. Rosemary S. Callard, who has specialized in the education of gifted children since 1977, will coordinate the program.

Parents may call Dr. Callard at 716/473-1352 or Fisher's Professional Development Office at 716/385-8320 for information.

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