

Mooney parents sue high school, diocese

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

A group of Cardinal Mooney school parents filed suit Monday, July 17, in state Supreme Court against the Diocese of Rochester, Cardinal Mooney High School, the Holy Cross Brothers and the Greece Central School District.

According to attorney James Dimassimo, who represents the parents, the suit charges that the school's closing was caused in part by the desire of the Greece school district to alleviate a need for additional classroom space. The suit also states that the school did not give adequate notice of the closing to school parents, and that the school broke a contractual relationship with its lowerclassmen, Dimassimo said.

He said this contractual relationship stemmed from Cardinal Mooney's recruitment of prospective students with the implied promise that they would be able to

graduate from the school. Dimassimo could name no precedents or similar cases on which the parents were basing their charges, but he did say, "I am told such cases exist."

Mooney closed in June of this year, and a deal to sell it to the Greece Central School district was concluded in late May. Despite the lawsuit, Greece voters will go to the polls on August 9 to vote on a bond referendum that would approve the school district's purchase of the Mooney building, said Duane Ruppert, spokesman for the Greece Central School District.

Ruppert had no comment on the lawsuit itself. Neither did Cardinal Mooney spokesman Brother Lawrence Atkinson.

Father George Norton, diocesan spokesman, said the diocese had not yet prepared a response.

No spokesman from the Holy Brothers was available for comment.

Coalition asks company management to negotiate

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Community Coalition for Workers' Rights — which encompasses several Catholic parishes and diocesan offices — has issued a statement urging the management of Kleen Brite Laboratories, Inc., to negotiate with representatives of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union.

The coalition's statement came on the heels of the National Labor Relations Board's June 30 order that Kleen Brite negotiate with the union. Kleen Brite workers voted 143-83 in July, 1988, to join the ACTWU. The company has refused to meet with the union since the election.

Kleen Brite manufactures cleaning products for the northeastern United States. The NLRB order gives the company until August 7 to respond as to whether it will negotiate with the ACTWU.

About 25 members of the CCWR, including Father David Reid, parochial vicar at St. Peter and Paul Parish, met outside the company's Oak St. plant at noon on Wednesday, July 19, intending to give the statement to company management. The plant's security guards informed the coalition members that management personnel were instead at the company's plant in Brockport.

A smaller contingent of the coalition then went to Brockport, where, Father Reid said, they gave the statement to a Kleen Brite receptionist who assured them

management would receive it.

Kleen Brite spokeswoman Susan Exford said the company had no comment on the CCWR statement.

Father Reid said that the CCWR will take no further action until learning whether Kleen Brite will negotiate with the ACTWU.

In addition to a number of Catholic parishes, the CCWR includes the diocesan offices of the Spanish Apostolate and of Black Ministries, and the Division of Urban Services.

City councilman and mayoral candidate John J. Erb accompanied CCWR delegates to the Oak Street plant. Erb, a deacon at Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier Parish, criticized Kleen Brite's management for refusing to meet with the union.

"It is in the best interests of the entire community for management to sit down with the union," he said. "To stall further and not to sit down won't do any good."

Essay contest to focus on invasion of Poland

ROCHESTER — The Polonia Civic Center and the Institute for Polish Studies at St. John Fisher College are sponsoring an essay contest for Monroe County secondary school students. Entrants are asked to explain — in approximately 500 words — why the invasion of Poland in 1939 was one of the most important events in the 20th century.

Essays will be judged according to forcefulness of argument, quality of expression and originality. All entrants must be enrolled in Monroe County secondary schools

Each winner will be awarded \$250 and have his or her name announced at a ceremony in September. All essays must include full name, address, age, grade and school students will be attending in the fall. Essays must be postmarked by Aug. 10, and should be sent to: Essay contest, c/o Dr. M.B. Biskupski, St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

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