

# Proceeds from sale slated for fund, teachers

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Monroe County's Catholic schools and former faculty and staff members of Cardinal Mooney High School are expected to be the primary beneficiaries of the school building's sale to the Greece Central School District.

The school district closed its deal to buy Mooney for \$9 million earlier this month. Attorneys for the diocese and the school's operating order, the Brothers of the Holy Cross, agreed to divide the sale's proceeds equally between the order and the diocese after deducting closing costs of \$600,000.

The diocese's share — \$4.2 million —

will be used mostly as seed money for the Catholic School Endowment fund for Monroe County, according to Mark Seeberg, diocesan development director.

A portion of the diocese's share may be spent on current Catholic school expenses in the northeast quadrant, one of four quadrants that make up the Monroe County Catholic school system, Seeberg remarked. He added that some of the money might also be used to finance start-up costs for the northeast's junior high program which is slated to open on the premises of Bishop Kearney High School in September, 1990.

Seeberg noted, though, that "ideally, we ought to invest most or all of (the \$4.2 mil-

lion) in the endowment."

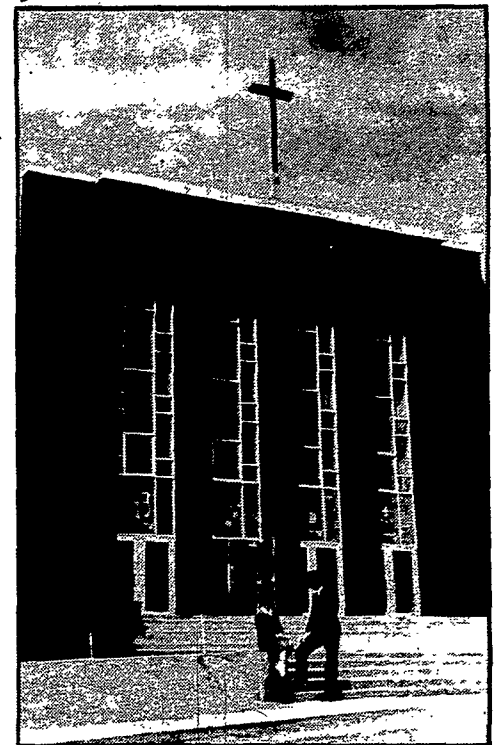
As for the Holy Cross Brothers' share of the proceeds, nearly \$1.5 million will cancel Cardinal Mooney's remaining debts, according to Brother Peter Martin, provincial treasurer and counselor for finance. An undetermined amount will be used as severance pay for 77 former Mooney teachers and staff members, including religious and lay people, he said, adding that any money remaining from the order's \$4.2 million share will be used to finance the order's ministries throughout the northeastern United States.

Brother Martin said that the formula for awarding severance pay has yet to be determined, but he expects that it will take into account employees' salary levels and years of employment at the time of the school's closing.

Mooney was closed last June due to declining enrollment and financial problems. In that same month, the Greece school district announced its intent to buy the school building, Greece voters, in an August 9 bond referendum, approved the school district's purchase of the Mooney building by a margin of almost 5-1.

In September, 1990, the Greece district plans to reopen the Mooney building as a middle school housing 900 students. Eventually, 1,350 students will attend the new Greece middle school, according to Bari Lee, director of support services for the school district.

Earlier this year, John Yagielski, Greece school superintendent, estimated that the



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district will need to spend an estimated \$4.5 million to building modifications, including asbestos abatement, roof replacement and classroom restructuring. Lee noted that the school district will begin accepting contractors' bids on Nov. 20, and award a contract by mid-January.

Renovation of the Mooney building should begin in early February, Lee said.

# Embezzler must pay back hospital after serving time

By Richard A. Kiley  
News editor

ELMIRA — A Chemung County judge has ordered Jeffrey A. Katz — the Elmira man convicted of embezzling more than \$270,000 from St. Joseph's Hospital — to make full restitution to the hospital after serving at least 3½ years in a medium-security prison.

In sentencing the former hospital executive to 3½ to 10 years in prison, Chemung County Judge Samuel J. Castellino rejected a plea agreement between Katz's lawyer, Carl Hayden, and Chemung County District Attorney James T. Hayden.

The agreement called for a 2-to-10 year sentence and full restitution, but Castellino never committed to honoring the plea bargain.

Katz, 37, of 908 Bowman Road, Elmira, was sentenced Thursday, Oct. 26, in Chemung County Court for second-degree grand larceny. He pleaded guilty to that charge on Sept. 21, after the plea agreement was reached between his lawyer and District Attorney Hayden.

Katz embezzled the money over a seven-year period. He forged signatures on more than 1,400 fraudulent checks for services that were never provided to the hospital. Katz then deposited the checks into his account at an Elmira bank.

The scheme was discovered when a business that had done some work for the rehabilitation department never received a check for payment, District Attorney Hayden said in a recent telephone interview.

According to John J. Renz, vice president of planning and marketing depart-

ment, the hospital has strengthened its check-distribution system since law officials uncovered Katz's scheme.

Renz said that Katz — who earned \$50,000 annually — was one of a small number of mid-management employees at the hospital with the authority and the trust to request and disperse checks for services rendered by individuals and companies outside the hospital.

"Jeff Katz chose to violate that trust," Renz said.

Renz said hospital officials now mail checks to businesses or individuals who do work at St. Joseph's instead of sending them to department heads for distribution.

"This should prevent the future occurrence of this type of activity," he said.

According to Renz, Katz has already repaid the hospital \$80,000 of the money he embezzled. Asked whether hospital officials were satisfied by Castellino's decision, Renz said, "The hospital's position on sentencing has been that full payment of all (embezzled) funds should come to the hospital, and that the legal system has the responsibility to determine the length of the ... term."

"The decision by the judge has agreed with the hospital," Renz added.

Castellino ordered Katz to pay the hospital \$201,000 in restitution.

In addition, Katz has reportedly agreed to pay the Internal Revenue Service at least \$100,000 as part of a plea agreement for violating federal income tax laws because he failed to report the money he embezzled as income.

# Pro-life activist sentenced to 60 days in jail

ROCHESTER — David Long, executive director of Project Life of Rochester, was sentenced in City Court Monday, Oct. 30 to 60 days in jail by visiting Justice Gerard J. Alonzo.

Long had been charged with third-degree criminal trespass and resisting arrest for his role in a "rescue mission" last April at the Alexander Women's Group clinic, which is located on the third floor of the

Doctor's Office Building at Genesee Hospital.

Alonzo found Long guilty of criminal trespass on Oct. 23, but he dropped the resisting arrest charge because of insufficient evidence.

Long was taken into custody following sentencing.

— Rob Cullivan

# Saving Creation symposium set for church in Rochester

A "Saving Creation" symposium, created to focus attention and effort on constructive action against environmental degradation, will take place November 3 and 4.

The symposium will take place at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050

East Ave., Rochester.

The weekend symposium will explore such issues as Love Canal, recycling and environmental problems in Rochester.

The registration fee is \$10 per person in advance or \$15 per person at the door.

Call 716/271-1050 for information.

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