Thanks Giving Appeal '89

Tuition assistance helps families pay the bill

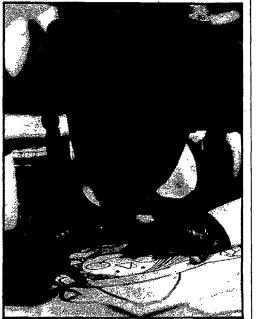
By Rob Cullivan Staff writer

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ROCHESTER - Every year, Brother Brian Walsh has to relearn his ABCs, and even his D's.

Such is the annual task of the superintendent of schools when it comes time for his office to determine which families will receive diocesan tuition assistance. Families are ranked in eligibility by four categories:

A. The family has an annual income



Seven-year-old Catherine Wethers, a student at St. Monica's, receives tuition assistance from the diocese.

equal to less than \$3,000 per member.

the new Catholic Community Schools plan released last August.

In previous years, all diocesan tuitionassistance funds came from the TGA, Brother Walsh said. This year's boost in funding from parishes without schools enabled the diocese to increase its tuitiongrants from \$110,000 in 1988 to this year's figure, representing nearly a 77 percent increase.

Brother Walsh also noted that this was the first year in which all A and B applicants could receive some aid from the diocese. Applicants falling into the C and D categories received no aid this year nor in previous years, he said, noting that A and B applicants make up about half of all tuition-assistance requests.

Tuition assistance helps keep students in classrooms throughout the diocese, but most notably in Catholic inner-city schools, remarked Sister Eileen Daly, principal of Corpus Christi School.

"I think it's obvious that there's no way that some of these parents would be able to afford us," Sister Daly said. "Otherwise, we'd outprice ourselves without tuition assistance.'

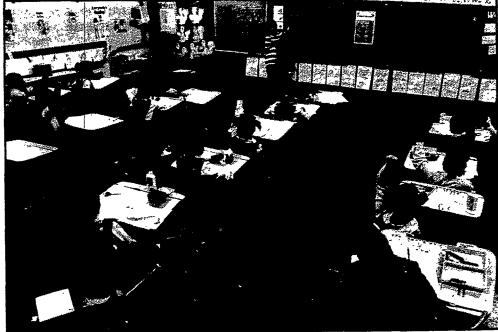
Sister Daly said that 27 of the 50 Corpus Christi students who applied for tuition assistance received it. Yet she noted that those who were rejected, usually middleclass students, also need some form of aid.

"It's Catch 22 when you're not poor enough to get assistance, but you're not rich enough to shell out the bucks," she said.

Brother Walsh remarked that most

are just at that cut-off point," she said. "They are really the ones who need it." vice to a school for a discount on tuition,





Diocesan tuition assistance enables hundreds of students to attend Catholic schools who might otherwise be unable to afford that choice. Secondgraders at St. Monica's recite words along with teacher Sarah Armignacco.

get TGA donors who could "adopt a student," or help subsidize a student's education. He noted, however, that details of the plan had yet to be worked out.

Seeberg also said that the diocese is preparing to send out checks to city families who have been designated recipients of tuition assistance provided by an anonymous donation of \$150,000 made last August. The donor specified that the money be used for needy families in the city's Catholic schools, and Seeberg said that several families that didn't receive diocesan tuition assistance will receive aid through this donation.

He also said that some families who had received diocesan tuition assistance benefited from the donor's gift, but he declined to give more specific information, noting that he was still working with school principals to determine how families will receive aid.

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