

Panel reports to DPC on changing schools

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

PALMYRA — Opposition to the reorganization of the Catholic school system in Monroe County is often a sign of deeper fears about a changing Catholic Church.

That was one consensus reached during a discussion at the March 24 Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting, as DPC members heard a progress report on school restructuring from a panel of speakers involved in the process.

Panel members also said the current delay in fully implementing the reorganization plan will only slow — not end — the restructuring of the Catholic school system.

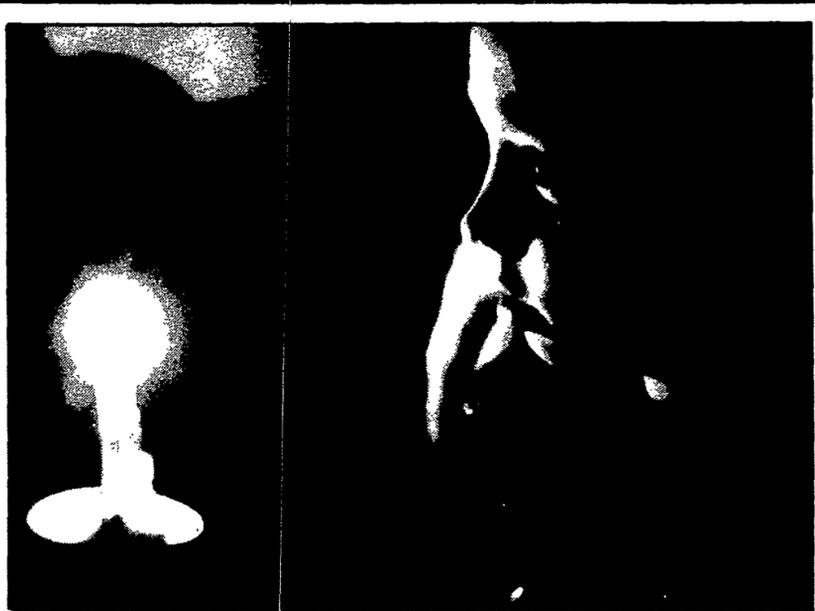
Also during the DPC meeting at St. Anne's Church, Bishop Matthew H. Clark informed council members about the progress being made by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on its pastoral letter on women in the church and society.

The bishop also asked for input on a document to help guide the placement of priests in the diocese.

School reorganization, however, was the major topic of the meeting. A panel — made up of Bishop Clark; William Pickett, chairman of the Commission to Reorganize Catholic Schools in Monroe County; Paul Moorehouse, chairman of the Southeast Quadrant Planning Board; and Frank Geraci, a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Parish on Rochester's Humboldt Street — gave a brief update on recent events in the planning process.

Among those developments were Bishop Clark's March 7 approval of a governance and finance plan for Catholic schools in the southeast, southwest and northwest quadrants. The quadrant governance boards will assume control of the quadrants July 1.

The diocese had also issued a statement



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
REMEMBERING ROMERO — Ryan Shanley holds a candle during a service at Rochester's Corpus Christi Church Friday, March 23. The service marked the 10th anniversary of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero's assassination. The next day, 72 Rochesterians joined about 30,000 marchers in Washington, D.C., to protest U.S. aid to El Salvador.

Parents' group counters commission's school plan

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — A parents' group opposed to the current reorganization of Catholic schools released a counterproposal last week, but diocesan officials said implementation of the governance and finance plans for Monroe County's quadrants will proceed as scheduled.

The Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) submitted its counterproposal on Wednesday, March 21, during an afternoon press conference at the Sheraton-Inn, 1100 Brooks Ave.

The alternative plan called for a one-year moratorium on implementation of the governance-reorganization plan for the southeast, southwest and northwest quadrants that was submitted by the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools and recently approved by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Father George Norton, diocesan spokesman, said that the governance plan would be implemented on its scheduled date of July 1.

In brief, the governing and finance plan approved by the bishop March 7 called for quadrant boards comprising representatives from parishes and schools to administer schools within each quadrant starting July 1.

The counterproposal notes that under the plan quadrant boards have no explicit role as representatives of school parents, and asserts that parents will "lose control" of schools when their governance shifts from a parish-based system to a quadrant-based one.

"The bureaucratic structure required to support the current plan is unrealistic and contrary to sound business practice ..." the counterproposal stated.

"Centralization was a disaster in the business world and we would be no less subject to the same factors in (the approved plan)," it said.

William Pickett, chairman of the Commission on Reorganization of Catholic Schools, said Friday, March 23, that parents — through the quadrant boards — will have a de facto role in the governing of the schools. Most lay representatives, he noted, will probably be school parents as well.

"I think that the practice really is that the people who get involved in ... school boards are school parents," he said. Pickett also dismissed the criticism of centralization in the commission plan as "irrelevant," because it compared the business and academic worlds. He labeled the criticism a "scare tactic."

The commission's plan mandates that by

1994, 60 percent of a quadrant school's costs will be financed through tuition and school-based revenues, with the remaining 40 percent of costs financed by parish support.

The plan also calls for parishes that have never had a school to pay an increased minimum parish-education subsidy of \$500 for 1990-91 for each parish child attending a quadrant school. The current subsidy is \$300.

The ACE counterproposal stated that Catholics frequently register as parishioners of one parish, but live within the geographic boundaries of another. This practice will be threatened by the increased education subsidies for parishes without schools, ACE said.

"There are currently many parishes that have never met this (the school subsidy) obligation in the past and, therefore, could



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- April 12 **Holy Thursday Eucharist** at 5:00p.m. Celebrant: Fr. Tom Mull. Followed by Festive Dinner, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.
- April 13 **Good Friday - Day of Prayer:** Morning prayer at 9:00a.m., Simple Lunch - 11:30; The Three Hours - 12:00 - 3:00; Liturgy of the Day - Fr. Sebastian Falcone
- April 20-22 **St. Francis de Sales:** The spirit and asceticism of this outstanding French saint of the 17th Century. Given by Fr. William Marceau, C.S.B.
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