

# Penn Yan

Continued from page 3

parish provided \$80,000 of the school's \$190,000 budget during that year.

The parish also needed to hire a person to direct the religious education program, and faced \$20,000 in repair bills for the roofs of the rectory, school, and church.

In offering the subsidy, the diocese is not directly supporting the school, noted Father John Mulligan, vicar general of the diocese.

"(The subsidy) does free up more money for the school, but we wanted to clearly indicate from our point of view that the religious education program is important and shouldn't suffer because of the school," Father Mulligan said.

"It will certainly give us a breather," acknowledged the parish's pastor, Father William Michatek. "Any subsidy we get is a help to the total parish."

Father Michatek observed that the subsidy will be renewable, but that it is only a short-term solution to keeping the school viable. "What we really need is increased enrollment," the pastor said.

This year, enrollment at the school is 112. The school launched a recruitment campaign, and despite fears that the school might close, the projected enrollment for 1990/91 is between 115 and 120, reported the school's principal, Sister Catherine Gibbons, SSI.

St. Michael's School will be part of the planning for schools in the Finger Lakes region by the Commission on Clusters. But, Father Michatek noted, because of the isolation from other Catholic schools in the region — the nearest being more than 40 miles away in Geneva — St. Michael's

School is unlikely to be clustered with another school.

The pastor also pointed out that because the pupils at the school are primarily from the Penn Yan area — and because the county only has two parishes — it is doubtful St. Michael's will receive substantial financial support for the school from other parishes.

Consequently, the parish will engage in a number of fundraising efforts, and is planning to launch a capital campaign for the school, as well as a stewardship campaign for the parish as a whole.

Father Michatek said that St. Michael's staff and parishioners will have to monitor these fundraising efforts and the parish's financial situation over the next year to see if it is economically feasible to keep the school open in the future.

— Lee Strong

## Kearney to sponsor trip to New Orleans in October

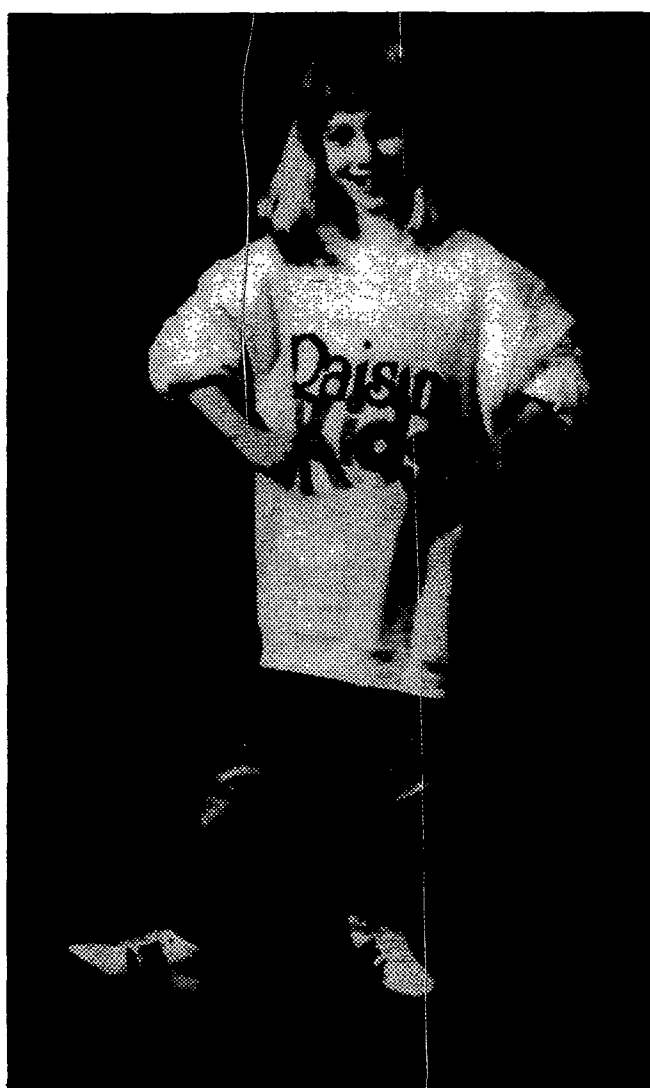
Bishop Kearney High School's Parents-Alumni Association is sponsoring a trip to New Orleans October 10 - 14.

The trip package includes air fare, accommodations at the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Bourbon Street, a tour of the city, meals and a Mississippi River cruise. The cost is \$699 per person, based on double occupancy.

Proceeds from the trip will benefit the Bishop Kearney Education Fund.

A \$150 deposit and reservations are required by April 20. Call Joseph Goodyear, 716/266-6658, or the high school, 342-4000, for information.

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