

# WANTED

## FOR ATTEMPTING CATHOLIC EDUCATION



The suspect — who operates under the aliases "Catholic school teacher," "Director of Religious Education," and "Religious Education Coordinator" — formerly dressed most often in the garb of a sister, brother or priest, but today blends in easily with lay people. Armed with idealistic motives, the suspect can be identified by a tender heart worn prominently on his or her sleeve, which is usually covered with chalk dust. The suspect's wallet or purse is generally thin, and the suspect most frequently appears as a female Caucasian, but is sometimes seen as a male Caucasian, or a person of color from either gender.

If you spot this suspect, please report immediately to the nearest Director of Education.

## Gospel values motivate educators

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

When her alarm goes off each weekday morning from September to June, Beverly Markell greets the day like one of those people one thinks only exists in breakfast cereal TV commercials where the sun is always shining down on eager children and their contented parents.

"When I get up to go to work in the morning," Markell said, "I don't get a sinky feeling in my stomach."

When Markell arrives each day at St. Joseph's kindergarten class in Wayland, she looks down upon the reason her mood is so placid while much of the rest of the world is cursing its way to work down crowded freeways.

Even if her kindergarten students occasionally step out of line, Markell takes it all in stride. Speaking of each student, she said: "I look for the pearl,

but I don't worry about the rough oyster outside."

Finding the pearl of a soul and mind that exists in each student motivates thousands of lay Catholic educators — and a declining number of religious and priests — to take and keep relatively low-paying jobs across the country each year.

A quick look at the nation's Catholic educators through the eyes of information provided by the Washington, D.C.-based National Catholic Edu-

**CATHOLIC  
COURIER**

CATHOLIC EDUCATION '90

cation Association reveals how greatly the church has changed since the mid-1960s.

At that time, enrollment had peaked at Catholic schools that were for the most part administered and staffed by orders of sisters, and a smaller number of brothers and priests.

If one were to walk into a Catholic elementary school today, eight out of 10 adult faces that would pop out of the classrooms would belong to lay persons, an almost equal number of whom would be women. Most would be white.

A Catholic high school would display a slightly different makeup of faculty, though as in the elementary schools, most of the teachers would be white.

One would see slightly more religious and priests instructing students, who would also have a male for a teacher almost as often as they would have a

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