

## Budget

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public schools during the 1990-91 school year.

On Wednesday, March 20, Brother Walsh joined the state's seven other Catholic school superintendents in a meeting with the legislative chairmen of the Senate and Assembly education committees. The superintendents hoped to convince the committee chairmen to support a mandated-services appropriation of \$32.5 million, which would cover the cost of the services for 1990-91 and make up for the 30 percent funding shortfall from last year.

Brother Walsh said the superintendents also asked that the state no longer defer payment from year to year of any portion of the reimbursement funds.

In addition to mandated-services reimbursement, Cuomo also proposed eliminating a \$11.5 million state-aid program to public school districts that provide Chapter 1 remediation services to students in private and parochial schools. The state-aid program helps local districts pay for such non-instructional needs as busing Catholic school students to so-called "neutral" sites where they can be taught, or the rental of vans in which Chapter 1 instructors can teach the students.

Prior to 1985, busing and neutral sites were not necessary, and Chapter 1 instructors from the public districts simply taught classes in the Catholic schools. But in August of that year, the U.S. Supreme Court declared it was unconstitutional for Chapter 1 instructors to teach on the premises of private and parochial schools.

Since then, school districts in such cities as Rochester and Auburn have funded the rental of MIUs — mobile instructional units, otherwise known as vans — which are located near the Catholic schools they are serving. Such vans are usually provided when there is no nearby site to which students of a Catholic school can walk or be bused for Chapter 1 classes.

In Rochester, MIUs are stationed at Corpus Christi School, 546 Oxford St., and St. Monica's School, 841 Genesee St. MIUs are also stationed at Auburn's Blessed Trinity School, 101 E. Genesee St and St. Mary's School, 17 Clymer St.

The eight diocesan superintendents also lobbied the legislators to appropriate \$10.5 million in aid to state public school districts to help cover the costs of providing Chapter 1 services. Half that money would cover the balance owed for 1990-91 by public school districts for the services they provided to students in non-public schools. The other half of the funds would allow the program to continue in September of this

year.

The Rochester City School District plans to absorb the \$81,000 it will lose under the proposed cuts for non-instructional services by using other funds available in its budget, remarked Woodrow Hammond, director of the city's Chapter 1 program. Hence, Rochester Catholic schools will suffer no interruption in Chapter 1 remedial services, he said.

Cuomo's proposed budget would also ax school asbestos aid, which is used by non-public schools to address the hazards caused by asbestos in their buildings. Brother Walsh said the proposed cuts in the asbestos program would have no serious ramifications for diocesan schools, because none of these facilities has a serious asbestos problem.

Brother Walsh said he also urged the legislators to consider the consequences of cutting aid to non-public schools.

He noted that 471,000 students in the state attend private or parochial schools, and that 300,000 of those students attend Catholic institutions. According to estimates of the Catholic superintendents' council, the state's non-public schools save taxpayers \$3.5 billion a year, which would be the cost of educating their students if they were enrolled in public schools.

"If you push kids out of the (non-public) system, in the long run, it's going to cost you more," Walsh said. "The rational person at these times would be encouraging kids to stay in non-public schools."

But Brother Walsh remarked that the state legislators may not share his view of rationality. "I think we had a good discussion and were heard," he said, adding, however, that "No one in Albany gives you assurances."

## Aquinas

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isting gymnasium will be converted into a science and fine-arts facility.

The renovation plan also includes new faculty offices, library expansion, additional audio and visual facilities and more storage space.

Construction dates for the new facilities are tentatively set for the spring of 1992. The pace of construction will be determined in part by the amount of alumni support received for the campaign, officials said.

Ouweleen said Aquinas is also waiting to hear whether New York state has accepted its application for a grant of approximately \$500,000 in funds for restoration of the original building.

He added that although Aquinas was named a state and national landmark in 1990, the restrictions placed upon the institution as far as renovation are concerned are far less than if the school was named a city or local landmark.

"Our intention is to preserve the architectural beauty of both the old and the new buildings," stated Ouweleen.

During the campaign announcement, Wegman recalled that when Ouweleen approached him about the campaign in 1989, he was not sure he wanted to become involved.

"I wasn't sure that they could achieve their first goal of \$3.5 million," Wegman said. "It looked like a lot of money to me."

"I told (Ouweleen) if he could get three top commitments, then I would see that he raised the \$7 million," Wegman added. "In fact, I told him I'd give him a million."

And by gosh, he did."

Since the campaign's kickoff announcement, Aquinas has begun soliciting donations from its 12,000 living alumni. Since more than half of the goal was raised in only six months, Tofany said he has no doubts that the campaign will be successful.

"I know they (alumni) will respond in the next few weeks and we will celebrate a resounding victory in the success of our alma mater," he said.

Ouweleen said he does not know of any other high school in the United States undergoing such an ambitious campaign.

"This is unprecedented for high schools in the United States to raise \$3.6 million. We can't find one that has done it," he said. "In fact, it's even unprecedented among small colleges."

But the development director also noted that the campaign was mounted out of necessity. Enrollment — which is now at 893 students — has increased every year since 1982, and without expansion, Aquinas' facility could accommodate no more than 925 students, he said.

"This is a campaign driven by need," noted Ouweleen. "We've got to get going."

And although Wegman initially may have hesitated to become involved with the campaign, he said his feelings have changed.

"I'm now delighted with being involved because the ultimate success of this venture is predictable," the honorary chairman observed. "There is no question that we will succeed."

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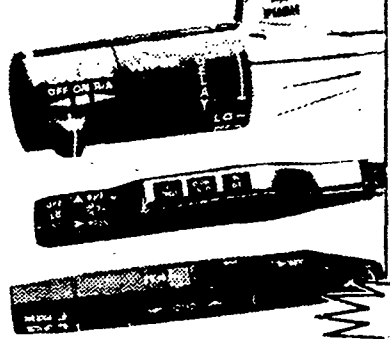


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### Father Gereon Lindsay, 74; served at Interlaken

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 13 for Father Gereon Lindsay, OFM Cap., at Our Lady of Solace Chapel at Harlem Valley Psychiatric Center, Wingdale, N.Y.

Father Lindsay, who had served as the institution's chaplain since 1970, died March 11, 1991, at the age of 74.

Born in New York City Nov. 18, 1916, Father Lindsay pronounced perpetual vows in the Franciscan Capuchin Order on Aug. 27, 1939. He was ordained a priest June 23, 1943, in Wisconsin.

Father Lindsay served in a number of parishes in Wisconsin and New York, including Interlaken's St. Francis Solanus Parish from 1955-58. At Interlaken, he was appointed guardian of the friary and pastor of the parish.

Father Lindsay is survived by a sister, Sister Kathleen Lindsay, OP, of Amenia, N.Y.

Donations may be made to the Father Gereon Lindsay Memorial Scholarship Burse, 210 West 31st St. New York, N.Y. 10001. Proceeds will be used to benefit the education and training of future Capuchin Franciscan Friars.

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