

Northeast Quadrant facing budget shortfall

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Northeast Quadrant of the Monroe County Catholic School System faces a potential budget deficit of \$344,000 for 1990-91, according to quadrant and diocesan officials.

Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, diocesan superintendent of schools, cited several factors as contributing to the budget deficit. He also outlined a plan diocesan and quadrant officials believe will make up the revenue shortfall. One component of the plan is a tuition increase of \$125 for the first child of each family in the quadrant system.

Brother Walsh said the following factors had contributed to the budget deficit:

- Lower-than-predicted enrollment in the quadrant's schools, resulting in a shortfall of \$100,000 in tuition revenue. Brother Walsh said the quadrant's 1990-91 budget had been based on anticipated enrollment of 1,882 students, but that only 1,840 actually enrolled last year.

- The need to fill jobs of some teachers who left the quadrant with higher-paid replacements. The superintendent said 1990-91 budget projections for teachers' salaries were based on the cumulative salaries of teachers employed by the quadrant at the time the budget was written last year. Since that time, five teachers have left their jobs in the quadrant, and have been replaced with higher-paid personnel. Brother Walsh said these replacement costs amounted to a total of \$111,000.

The superintendent noted that all of these higher-paid replacements were veteran teachers who had been displaced by the closings of other Catholic schools in other quadrants. He said the diocese was committed to filling positions with teachers displaced by closings before looking for

teachers outside the Catholic school system. But because teachers' salaries are partly based on their years of service with the school system, a veteran teacher hired to replace someone with only a few years of service would receive a salary higher than that paid to his or her predecessor, he said.

- Three parishes did not pay their school subsidies to the quadrant, causing a budgetary shortfall of \$94,000. Subsidies to the quadrant governing board are required from all parishes without on-site

schools, and are based on the parishes' shares of the overall student population.

Brother Walsh said these parishes — which he declined to name — had not paid their subsidies because they did not agree with the amount of their assessments and had appealed to the diocese to reduce them. After examining each parish's appeal, he said, the diocese has "directed" all three parishes to pay their subsidies.

- Uncollected tuition and parish subsidies from the 1989-90 school year in the amount of \$55,000. In addition, the qua-

drant's 1990-91 budget had already projected a deficit of \$8,000 for the year.

Brother Walsh said that the overall deficit was partially offset by \$24,000 in spending cuts made in the quadrant's administrative, maintenance and other expenses. After these cuts, the 1990-91 deficit came to \$344,000.

In addition to collecting the \$94,000 in unpaid subsidies from the three parishes that contested their assessments, he said the quadrant will borrow \$125,000 from the diocese and another \$125,000 collectively from four quadrant parishes — St. Ambrose, Annunciation, St. James and St. Cecilia. The quadrant will pay back both loans at an interest rate of 8 percent over five years, starting in 1991, Brother Walsh noted.

Brother Walsh outlined several measures the quadrant plans to take in order to prevent a deficit from recurring in 1991-92. He remarked, for example, that tuition will increase by \$125 for the first child from a family. This will mean that a family with one child in quadrant schools will pay \$1,275 for 1991-1992, as opposed to \$1,150 for 1990-91.

Meanwhile, the quadrant plans to estimate enrollment more realistically for next year, Brother Walsh said, remarking that the quadrant will plan on re-enrolling 97 percent of the current year's students in the successive year. Last year, the quadrant projected that enrollment would rise to 1,882 students from the prior year's level of 1,856, he said. Instead enrollment dropped to 1,840.

The quadrant also will consolidate small classes into fewer larger ones, and cut three teaching positions for next year, Brother Walsh said. In some cases, he said, schools planned for large classes this

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Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
WARM WELCOME — Jerry Dougherty greets Father Richard Mattie (right), arriving April 25 at the Greater Rochester International Airport. Dougherty, who once served as the priest's altar boy, was one of about 50 friends and relatives who welcomed the Navy chaplain home from duty aboard the hospital ship U.S.S. Mercy in the Persian Gulf.

Planned Parenthood foes ponder potential actions

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — As the office's May 13 opening draws closer, some members of the 19th Ward Community Association remain opposed to the association's decision to lease space in its 504 Thurston Road building to Planned Parenthood of Rochester and Genesee Valley, according to Ken Maher, leader of a group opposed to the decision.

The group, which includes several Catholics, met April 17 to discuss possible actions against the association, Maher said. Protesting members may distribute leaflets and/or boycott businesses that belong to the community group, according to Maher, a parishioner of St. Peter and Paul Church.

Maher reported that one Catholic parish, Our Lady of Good Counsel, had already

withdrawn from the association in protest of the agency's decision to lease space to Planned Parenthood.

St. Augustine and St. Monica churches decided to remain members of the 19th Ward Community Association, but have asked to be omitted from any lists of organizations that support the association.

The Knights of Columbus of Rochester narrowly voted to remain in the association, Maher reported.

Opponents of the lease to Planned Parenthood also will seek support from individuals and organizations that signed a petition earlier this year, requesting that the association dissolve the lease. The petition, made public at a meeting last Jan. 17 at the Knights of Columbus of Rochester's building at 670 Thurston Road, was signed by

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State cuts curb prison chaplains

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

State officials will provoke "a major confrontation" with New York's religious leaders if they proceed with proposals to cluster prison chaplaincy services and to assign chaplains to serve prisoners of faiths other than those of the chaplains, asserted J. Alan Davitt, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference.

"State government has an obligation both under state law and constitutional provisions to provide religious services for inmates," Davitt said. Intended to reduce the state's fiscal woes, such measures would provoke "a major confrontation with Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and Muslim communities," he said.

Nevertheless, the serious consideration being given to such proposals is indicative of the state's determination to cut spending

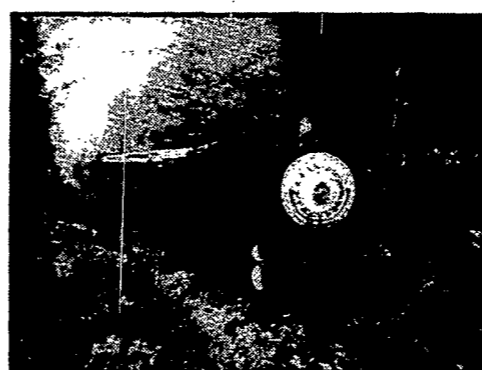
and of the low regard state officials have for prison chaplaincy, Davitt said.

The state has already eliminated all chaplain positions at Division for Youth Services facilities, including the State School at Industry. Meanwhile, officials have been slow to fill vacant positions, even when worthy candidates are available, observed Sister Clare Roland, SSI, director of chaplaincy services for the Diocese of Rochester.

Sister Roland cited the Livingston County Correctional Facility in Sonyea as an example of this practice. Although a deacon has been confirmed as the chaplain at the facility since Nov. 1, 1990, he has not been able to assume the job.

"Evidently the prison says the money has not been allocated yet for chaplaincy services," Sister Roland reported.

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