

BACK TO SCHOOL

New principal charts ambitious course

By Barbara Ann Homick
Staff writer

GATES — When the doors of the new All Saints Junior High School open on Sept. 6, children from 18 Rochester-area parishes will come together for the first time.

According to Principal Mary E. Caffrey, the opening of the new school — which will be housed at St. Theodore's — has caused a great deal of excitement among the new seventh- and eighth-grade students.

"Most of the students you talk to are excited about coming here. They're nervous because this is a bigger school than they are used to — these are all new kids — and they may have to ride a bus in a different direction. But they are very excited about being part of this junior high," said Caffrey.

Excitement for the school hasn't always run high, however. Some parents voiced objections when Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced last November that the junior high would be established as part of Catholic schools' reorganization in the Southwest Quadrant.

The loudest complaints came from parents at St. Pius the Tenth, which lost its seventh- and eighth-grade programs to the new junior high.

Although Caffrey — who served as principal of Holy Trinity School for eight years — said that she personally hasn't experienced any resistance from parents since she began her new position on July 1, she

is aware that some people may still have some concerns.

"I'm certain parents have reservations — we do anytime we make a change. But I hope that they can set that aside as they see that things work smoothly," said Caffrey. "And although it might not be the local school that they always felt comfortable with, it is still something that they can own and belong to."

Caffrey has attended or served at Catholic schools all of her life. A native of Auburn, she graduated from Sacred Heart Elementary and Mount Carmel High Schools. After earning a bachelor's degree in English from Nazareth College in 1969, Caffrey later earned a master's degree in education from Nazareth in 1975. She completed her administrative course work at the State University of New York College at Brockport in 1986.

Prior to serving at Holy Trinity, Caffrey taught for 14 years at St. John the Evangelist School on Rochester's Humboldt Street. In the early days of her new administrative post, the 43-year-old East Rochester resident said she has focused on getting All Saints ready for its opening next month.

The hiring of seven full-time and five part-time teachers was completed on Aug. 7. In addition, registration has been capped at 150 students — 87 seventh-graders and 63 eighth-graders.

According to Caffrey, All Saints will share common areas with St. Theodore's School, including the faculty room, computer room, art



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Principal Mary E. Caffrey sits in one of the classrooms of the new All Saints Junior High School, located at St. Theodore's School in Gates.

room, health office, library and gym. The schools will use different-colored corridors — yellow for St. Theodore's and white for All Saints — to differentiate between the two facilities.

The junior-high students — who come from such parishes as Most Precious Blood, Holy Family, St. Pius the Tenth, St. Theodore's, St. Helen's and Holy Ghost — will be challenged to "discover" themselves during the 1991-1992 school year, Caffrey said.

The principal said discovery will be the theme for the year, and the teachers and staff are being challenged to help each child determine his or her own potential.

Developing potential involves overcoming obstacles to learning, Caffrey said. Observing that children tend to put information into "nice little compartments," she noted, for example, that a student may



have no trouble learning a formula for math class, but be unable to use the same formula in science class.

"We are really trying to say to kids that there is application involved in learning all the time and we are trying to make connections for them so they can logically make them for themselves," explained Caffrey.

The principal noted that

many programs have already been planned for the upcoming year. For "All Saints Day," Caffrey said each student will be asked to research several saints and pick one as a patron. Students also will be asked to think of modern-day saints who may not have been canonized, but who actively live out the Gospel message.

In addition to a musical-theater program illustrating how plays of a certain era mirrored their society, Caffrey said the school will implement a project designed to increase students' environmental awareness.

"We have an ambitious plan for ourselves for this year," said Caffrey.

EDITORS' NOTE: All Saints Junior High, 168 Spencerport Road, will present an open house from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 12.

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Fisher freshmen to do community service

ROCHESTER — As part of freshman orientation, new students at St. John Fisher College are being invited to perform an afternoon's worth of community service Aug. 26.

About 40 freshmen are expected to help raise a low-income house with Habitat for Humanity or handle general

cleanup for the Dimitri House homeless shelter run by Corpus Christi Church.

"The idea is to introduce new students to the community-service tradition here at Fisher since it's such a vital part of students' lives and a part of the college's mission statement," said Karin Albright of

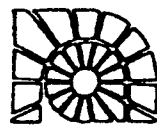
Campus Ministry.

About 30 freshmen took part in volunteer activities during orientation last year, Albright said. She estimated that 500 Fisher students — approximately 30 percent of the student body — participated in some form of community service last year.

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