

# Delegates set goals for Catholic schools

By Ines Pinto Alicea  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — In sessions Nov. 6-10, the National Congress on Catholic Schools developed 25 goals to improve Catholic schools in the 21st century. But most of the work on those goals now must be done at the local level, congress sponsors said.

Sister Catherine T. McNamee, SSJ, president of the National Catholic Educational Association, said local communities should be able to take the goals and general strategies established at the congress and develop strategies that fit their community needs to achieve them.

Some 250 educators, business leaders, parents, bishops, politicians and community leaders were asked to serve as delegates for the congress, which was planned as a process to develop guidelines and goals based on five major themes: Catholic identity; leadership; the school and society; finance and governance; and public policy and political action.

In the end, delegates came up with 25 directional statements, all of which were to be made public in a week. They also designated three of the 25 needing immediate action.

Robert Kealey, executive director of the NCEA's elementary schools department, said the top three were:

- Urging Catholics to give more financial and moral support to Catholic schools. One specific aspect of this goal was to increase financial support to all Catholic schools by 20 percent by 1997. The other aspect was getting Catholics to lobby for educational choice, said Sister McNamee.
- Providing ongoing formation of Catholic school personnel to make them more knowledgeable on the subjects they teach and to help them preserve the Catholic identity of schools.
- "Working with the bishops to ensure they realize the goals of their 1990 statement on education."

The bishops passed the "Statement of the United States Bishops in Support of Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools" at their November, 1990, general meeting. The document committed them to providing more school support through fundraising, and to creating offices that would help schools budget wisely and increase parental involvement.

In an interview with Catholic News Service about some of the major goals that were set, Archbishop John R. Roach of Minneapolis-St. Paul, a delegate and a former NCEA board chairman, said church's leaders are to blame for the low amounts Catholics give to the church and its schools. "It's our fault we have not given



AP/Wide World Photos

**WORLD TOUR** — President George Bush shakes hands with Pope John Paul II Nov. 8 prior to Bush's departure from the Vatican. The two met privately for more than an hour during Bush's two-day visit to Italy for a NATO summit. The president described their talk as "a major tour" of the world's trouble spots. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said "President Bush explained to the Holy Father the steps completed and the perspectives opened by the process started in Madrid with the first part of the conference regarding a stable, secure and just peace in the Middle East." The two also discussed recent developments in Eastern Europe.

them a sense of stewardship," he said. Sister McNamee said other areas important to the delegates were ensuring that Catholic schools are preparing students to function in a "technological and global society" by having the most modern equipment and the most up to date curricula. On Nov. 7 delegates also heard speeches by sociologist and author Father Andrew Greeley, and U.S. Sec-

retary of Energy James Watkins. Father Greeley said the hierarchy had failed Catholic education and that the laity should be given complete control over the schools to ensure their future. Watkins urged the educators to apply for federal funds under the "America 2000" programs, President George Bush's plan to improve U.S. education.

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**Sunday, December 1**  
At St. Charles Borromeo Church  
Rev. Anthony P. Mugavero, Parochial Vicar, St. Theodore Church

**Monday, December 2**  
At St. Charles Borromeo Church  
Sr. Marlene Vigna, RSM, Campus Chaplain, Rochester Institute of Technology

**Tuesday, December 3**  
At Sisters of Mercy Mother House  
Rev. Alexander H. Bradshaw, Pastor, Holy Ghost Church

**Wednesday, December 4**  
At St. Charles Borromeo Church  
Rev. Albert J. Shamon, Spiritual Director, Queen of Peace Apostolate

**Thursday, December 5**  
At Sisters of Mercy Mother House  
Rev. Terence K. Fleming, Pastor, St. Charles Borromeo Church

**Friday, December 6**  
At St. Charles Borromeo Church  
Rev. Francis Blighton, Coordinator, Borromeo Prayer Center

**Saturday, December 7**  
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