

## Institute focuses on unity among schools, society

Joseph McTighe, executive secretary for the New York Council of Catholic Superintendents and State Council of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education, was one of three speakers at the "Catholic Schools for the 21st Century: Institute on Catholic Education," held at the University of Rochester July 6-7.

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Fostering an harmonious relationship between Catholic schools and the general public is more vital than ever as the 21st century approaches.

This priority was the major emphasis of "Catholic Schools for the 21st Century: Institute on Catholic Education," which brought together about 100 participants from Catholic schools throughout the country. The third summer program was held July 6-7 at the University of Rochester.

In addition to a series of round-table discussions, the two-day program featured lectures by three well-known education experts: Joseph McTighe, executive secretary for the New York Council of Catholic School Superintendents and State Council of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education; Sister Lourdes Sheehan, RSM, secretary for education at the United States Catholic Conference; and Sister Amata Miller, IHM, education coordinator for Network: The National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

The program's primary topics were Catholic school and society; the Catholic identity of Catholic schools; and political action and public policy.

Sister Edwardine Weaver, RSM, the program's coordinator, emphasized the need to spread the visibility of Catholic institutions.

"There's a lot of misunderstanding of Catholic schools; we've never told our story well," admitted Sister Weaver, assistant professor and director of development at the University of Rochester's Graduate School of Education and Human Development. "At times we may not have been as clear about the role of Catholic schools in society. Catholic schools are proud and productive partners in American education."

Yet, Sister Weaver added, "Today, reform in public education is looking at Catholic schools as a model. It is important that we, as leadership people in Catholic schools, keep the public well-informed on what Catholic education means in today's society, and what our projections are."

McTighe pointed out that among the difficulties Catholic schools face in

modern times are rising tuition costs because the declining number of priests and religious on staff is leading schools to replace them with lay educators who command higher salaries.

Catholic schools are also dealing with the "migration of Catholics" out of the cities, McTighe said.

"They're moving into the suburbs, and Catholic schools have traditionally drawn from city neighborhoods."

In the resulting nationwide enrollment figures, McTighe said, "The most recent data may reflect a slight upswing, but in the last 10 to 12 years we're certainly down."

McTighe, who also serves as associate director of the New York State Catholic Conference, advocated two plans to counter this trend. One is increased marketing efforts — "telling about all the wonderful things that we've been hiding" — and another is a public policy initiative to help defray tuition costs, such as "vouchers, tuition-tax credits, and education-equity grants."

These cost-cutting possibilities might have a better chance at passing through New York state legislation

than in most other states, McTighe said.

"In New York we've been very lucky," he said. "This state has a very noble history of recognizing the public good of Catholic education. Catholic schools have mandated services (via public funding) like textbooks, transportation, and health and welfare services, that other states don't have."

Sister Weaver noted that these political concerns will be readdressed in January, 1993, when the University of Rochester sponsors a conference on public policy and political action for Catholic schools.

Sister Miller pointed out that Catholic education must not only mesh further into American society, but also take on more of a worldwide vision.

"Middle-class ideology puts blinders on us as to what the world is all about," Sister Miller stated. "But our Catholic faith asks us to think about the world as one."

On a local level, Sister Miller noted that Catholic schools should be perceived as "institutions in (the) neighborhood community that promote multicultural understanding."



# TEMSTAD

THE FINEST IN  
AUTOMOTIVE ACCESSORIES

### Automatic Speed Control

These custom control modules duplicate the factory controls incorporating set speed, resume, accel, decl, or coast.

NATIONWIDE WARRANTY



One of these days,  
You'll wish you  
had invested in  
a Code-Alarm

With auto theft at record levels, you deserve the best protection available. CODE-ALARM systems provide total security and are easy to use.

## CODE-ALARM


GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Lifetime Warranty

- REAR WINDOW DEFOGGERS
- CELLULAR TELEPHONES
- POWER DOOR LOCKS
- AIR CONDITIONING
- CRUISE CONTROL
- SOUND SYSTEMS
- AUTOMATIC HEADLIGHT SYSTEMS
- ALARM SYSTEMS
- DELAY WIPERS

**777 MONROE AVE. • 461-0050**  
CONVENIENTLY LOCATED OFF 490, MONROE AVENUE EXIT

## BARTOLOMEO FUNERAL HOME, INC.



Peter W. Giullari, Jr. Philip P. Perotto Michael P. Perotto

Personalized service in the community since 1922.

1425 Lexington Avenue Rochester, NY 14606  
conveniently located near 390

### (716) 254-5400