

Council modifies plan for southwest schools

MPB to remain open; All Saints to expand in '94

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Juridic Council of Monroe County's Southwest Quadrant Schools decided Monday, Dec. 7, to keep Most Precious Blood School open for grades kindergarten to two.

The Juridic Council acted to modify the Southwest Quadrant Governance Board's earlier proposal, which called for closing the Rochester school at the end of this school year. The council let stand the governance board's proposal that Holy Ghost School in Gates close in June, 1993.

The Juridic Council's modified plan was announced in a diocesan press release on Dec. 8.

In addition to keeping open Most

Precious Blood — currently a K-6 program — the modified plan also calls for eliminating the K-6 program at St. Theodore's in Gates by September, 1994.

The St. Theodore's building would then be turned over completely to All Saints, the quadrant's junior high school. St. Theodore's K-6 program currently shares the building with All Saints — a situation that would have continued under the governance board's original proposal.

If approved by the Diocesan Christian Formation and Education Council and Bishop Matthew H. Clark, the modified plan would also continue pre-K-6 programs at St. Pius Tenth, Chili; St. Helen, Gates; and St. Monica and Holy Family in Rochester.

The modified plan emerged from the Juridic Council's Monday, Dec. 7, meeting.

Timothy W. Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of schools, noted that the modifications serve to balance the quadrant's need for fiscal stability with its desire to continue serving city families.

Dwyer said the council decided to recommend closing Holy Ghost rather than Most Precious Blood because 55 percent of the quadrant's students — including many of its most needy — reside in the city, and the council did not want to lose those students. The quadrant's suburban schools comprise enough classrooms to accommodate students who will have to leave Holy Ghost, he said.

"It was tough call," Dwyer said in an interview with the *Catholic Courier* Dec. 8.

The diocesan press release also noted that Most Precious Blood's Stenson Street location situated it well for a day-care program.

"With the proximity of Most Precious Blood to such a large in-



S. John Wilkin / Photo intern

Students at Holy Ghost School play outside during recess Dec. 1. The Catholic school in Gates, which houses students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, is scheduled to close in June, 1993.

dustrial/commercial area, it seems an ideal location for an early childhood center," Dwyer stated in the release.

As for the decision to eliminate St. Theodore's K-6 program and turn the building over to the junior high, Dwyer pointed out that this move will alleviate parental concerns about potential overcrowding at All Saints. Many parents had criticized the governance board's original proposal because All Saints did not have enough classroom space to accommodate all the quadrant's sixth- and seventh-graders.

"We need to be certain that there is room in the junior high for all quadrant families who wish to use it," Bishop Clark stated in the press release.

In addition to Dwyer, members of the Southwest Quadrant Juridic Council are: Bishop Clark; Father John M. Mulligan, diocesan vicar general; Sister Mary Ann Binsack, diocesan director of Faith Development Ministry, which oversees Dwyer's office; four Southwest pastors; and the quadrant board's executive committee.

The modified proposal will be discussed further at the Dec. 15 meeting of the diocesan Christian Formation and Education Council. Bishop Clark is expected to make a formal decision on the plan by early January.

In other school news, Dwyer noted that the Juridic Council will also make a decision on Dec. 14 regarding the Southeast Quadrant Governance Board's proposal to establish a junior high at St. Thomas More in Rochester.

Charting
the
Journey

Regional synods to weigh recommendation priorities

Delegates from parishes and communities throughout the Rochester diocese will meet at 11 sites for regional synods this Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

During the regional synods, delegates will prioritize recommendations on the first three synod themes. These recommendations were submitted to the Diocesan Synod Commission following parish/community synod sessions held in late September and early October.

The prioritized recommendations will be submitted to the General Synod for consideration when it meets at the Rochester Riverside Convention Oct. 1-3, 1993.

The 11 regional synod sessions will be held at the following sites:

- Christ the King Church, 445 Kings Hwy. S., Rochester;
- St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gebhardt Road, Penfield;
- Holy Cross School, 4488 Lake Ave., Rochester;
- St. Helen's School, 310 Hinchey Road, Rochester;
- Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Rochester;
- St. Mary's Church, 13 North St., Geneseo;
- St. Mary's Church, 32 E. Morris St., Bath;
- Sacred Heart Church, 90 Melrose Road, Auburn;
- Church of St. Mary Our Mother, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads;
- St. John's Church, 24 Rock St. Newark Valley;
- and St. Mary's School, 16 Gibson St., Canandaigua.

Call 716/328-3210 for information.

Director seeks broader Hispanic Institute

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — In addition to having a new director, the Diocese of Rochester's Hispanic Institute is heading in a new direction.

Father Enrique Cadena, of the Diocese of Chiapas, Mexico, became the institute's new director Oct. 7. He has already begun teaching the 25 students currently enrolled in the institute, which is wholly subsidized through \$18,000 from the diocese's Thanks Giving Appeal.

The Hispanic Institute was created three years ago as a structured, three-year program to help train Hispanic lay leaders, explained Father Cadena, a member of the Order of Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.

While training leaders will continue as the primary focus, the institute will now be "open to everyone who wants to deepen their faith," the priest said.

Father Cadena said he also plans to offer seminars or whole-day classes in addition to the one-night-a-week, eight-week courses currently being taught. These seminars and classes would be offered at sites other than Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 1089 Joseph Avenue, where courses are currently taught.

Among possible venues for these additional courses are Geneva, New-

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ark, Brockport and possibly even some of the migrant camps, Father Cadena reported.

"The institute should reach out in a different way," Father Cadena said. "We need formation of leaders to work with migrants."

In addition, Father Cadena said he planned to revise the curriculum to offer more Scripture courses, and to provide advanced courses for individuals who want to continue beyond the basic three-year program.

Revising the program will take several years, Father Cadena noted. He has permission from his superiors in Mexico to serve in the Rochester diocese for at least one year. He thought, however, it is likely that his order will permit him to remain for several more years.

In addition to his duties at the institute, Father Cadena will work with the Hispanic migrant community; spend two days a week at the Hispanic Apostolate's field office at 873 N. Clinton Ave; and assist at Corpus Christi Par-

ish, 864 E. Main St.

Father Cadena had lived at Corpus Christi from 1986-89, while he was studying at St. Bernard's Institute. He learned of the Hispanic Institute's opening during a visit to Corpus Christi Church last May, he said.

Currently, Father Cadena is attempting to recruit more students for the institute. As part of that process, he is contacting pastors of parish communities with Hispanic members.

"We need to get the support of all the priests who are working with the Hispanic community so they will send people to the institute," Father Cadena said. "The institute should be a source of formation where the leadership in the parishes develops."

Meanwhile, he is also contacting the 16 men and women who finished the institute's inaugural, three-year program last spring. Some of the students had missed part of the course work over the three years, he said. The priest said he hopes that they would take the courses they needed to complete the program.

Based on the contacts he has made, and on his current students, Father Cadena expressed optimism over the institute's growth.

"In general," he said, "I feel that people are interested in growing in their faith. They see the need to do more for the Hispanic community."