

Group to open private high school in Auburn

Tyburn Academy will offer 9th grade

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

AUBURN — A group of Auburn-area residents is attempting to establish a Catholic-oriented high school in Auburn.

Group members hope to open the school they are calling Tyburn Academy this fall at 79 Columbus St. During its first year of operation, the school will offer only a ninth-grade program. Each subsequent year, another grade level will be added until the academy is a four-year secondary school with an enrollment of approximately 80 students, according to Patricia Fallon, one of the school's organizers.

A 12-member board of directors has been established for the school, named in honor of more than 100 English martyrs who died for their faith at Tyburn — located near London — in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The board, which has applied for New York state certification, is currently in the process of hiring a headmaster. The curriculum will include theology, English, social studies, Latin, mathematics, science, art and physical education.

Tuition will be \$1,500 per year. Registration begins this month.

According to Fallon, organizers decided to form the independent school to provide Auburn-area residents with a choice of where to send their children.

"Since the closing of (the former Our Lady of) Mount Carmel (High School) in 1970, there has been no choice of any other type of education other than public schools in Cayuga County," Fallon explained.

Parents who wanted their children to attend nonpublic schools had to send their children as far as Geneva DeSales High School, or to one of the Catholic high schools in Syracuse, Fallon said.

The academy grew, in part, out of a

desire by parents for the school to reinforce values their children learn at home, Fallon added.

"We wanted a situation where the values that are being inculcated in the home are being continued in the school," Fallon said. "They can't do that in the public school."

Informal discussions about the need for a private school had been taking place in Auburn since the former Our Lady of Mount Carmel High School's closing, Fallon said. In 1992, a number of concerned individuals began meeting to consider the possibility of creating a Catholic-oriented high school. That group later evolved into the board.

Fallon noted that as part of the preparation process for opening the school, the group studied other independent schools; contacted the state education department for certification information; developed a mission statement and constitution; and found sufficient funding — through anonymous donors — to support the school in its first year of operation.

In addition to notifying Catholic parishes and schools in the Auburn area, the group wrote to Timothy W. Dwyer, superintendent of schools for the Rochester diocese, alerting him to their plans, Fallon reported. She noted, however, that the school will be independent from the diocese.

Dwyer told the *Catholic Courier* that the school cannot be formally called "Catholic" unless board members seek such a designation from Bishop Matthew H. Clark — which they have not done.

Dwyer, however, said he was interested in what the group is attempting to do.

"I give them a lot of credit for having the courage to do it," Dwyer said. "I did write them a letter wishing them well and offering to help, but they don't seem to need it. I'm curious to see how well they will do in the next two to three years as they add classes."

EDITORS' NOTE: For information on Tyburn Academy, call 315/685-3006.

St. Mary's center opens



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Honeoye parish prizes new facility

HONEOYE — Parishioners of St. Mary Our Lady of the Hill Church recently celebrated the completion of their \$350,000 parish center that will house the parish's religious education program. The new building will also provide space for parish and diocesan events and meetings. The project was paid for by pledges from parishioners.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark dedicated the center May 2.

According to Joan McGlynn, the Honeoye parish's business manager, the completed center would not have been possible if not for Father Michael Hogan's efforts.

"Father Hogan has been such an advocate of a center since he came here (in 1987), and he made it come true," McGlynn said of the parish's pastor.

The actual process to plan and

build the center began with a needs assessment survey taken by the parish in 1991, McGlynn noted. She pointed out that one of the needs not met was a facility to house religious education classes.

"Basically, religious education was held all over the place, including the basement of the restaurant next door," she reported.

As a result of the assessment committee's work, a building committee was formed in September, 1991, and work on the center began in March of 1992.

The center, which measures approximately 5,000 square feet, includes a religious education office, three permanent classrooms, three portable classrooms, a kitchen and a large meeting space area that can also be used for dinners and other social occasions.

Plan to cluster Rochester churches

ROCHESTER — Five city parishes are tentatively slated to form into two clusters by June of 1994, according to Father Peter C. Clifford, diocesan director of Parish Support Ministries.

Under the proposals being examined, the following parishes would be clustered:

- Holy Apostles, 530 Lyell Ave., Holy Family, 415 Ames St., and St. Anthony of Padua, 60 Lorimer St.;
- Ss. Peter and Paul, 720 W. Main St., and St. Francis of Assisi, 77 Whitney St.

Parishioners officially learned of the proposed clusters in their parish bulletins the weekend of June 19-20.

Clusters are gatherings of two or more parishes under a common pastor or staff. Generally they are formed in response to the decline in the number of available priests, as well as to various fiscal, ministerial and demographic problems.

Father Clifford noted that clustering discussions involving the five city parishes began last fall after Father Lawrence A. Gross left his pastorate at Holy Apostles in June, 1992, to assume the pastorate at Henrietta's Church of the Good Shepherd.

Since Father Gross' departure, Holy Apostles has had one temporary administrator, Father John V. Forni, who left in January. He was replaced by the current pastor, Father David W. Mura. St. Anthony also has an administra-

tor, Father Melvin H. Walczak, who began his duties this week following the departure of former pastor Father Robert L. Belligotti, now pastor of Auburn's St. Francis of Assisi Church.

The clustering proposals grew out of meetings between each parish's pastors and staffs with Father Clifford and Father Robert P. Ring, director of priest personnel.

The affected parishes must decide whether they approve of the proposed groupings by Oct. 15, 1993, Father Clifford said. Later this summer and fall, cluster planning teams for each parish will meet to review the groupings.

From Oct. 15 to Jan. 24, 1994, the cluster planning teams will meet and prepare their cluster plans for presentation to Bishop Matthew H. Clark. The plans will include ministry, staffing, scheduling and financial proposals, according to a diocesan fact sheet.

By February, each cluster plan will be submitted for final approval by Bishop Clark. Then in March the clusters can begin seeking pastors, Father Clifford said, adding that all diocesan priests can apply for appointment to the positions.

Father Clifford stressed that none of the five parishes mentioned in the clustering proposals are in danger of closing. The diocesan fact sheet noted that several clusters already exist in the diocese.

— Rob Cullivan

Permanent deacons to meet in Plattsburgh

PLATTSBURGH — The eighth annual Region II convocation for permanent deacons and their wives has been slated for July 23-25. The gathering will take place at the State University of New York College at Plattsburgh.

In addition to New York state, Region II comprises the Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

During the convocation participants will be able to take part in workshops dealing with such topics as evangelization, spirituality, tithing, stress and sexuality.

Dorothy Armstrong, head of the Passionist Secular Institute in

America, and Deacon Ron Ochner, founder and director of Still Point, Inc., a center for Christian counseling, will be the keynote speakers.

The fee is \$125 per person, with a registration deposit of \$50. A late fee of \$5 per person will be added for those who register after July 1.

Reservations should be sent to Deacon Robert and Carole Diehl, 22 Macomb St., Apt. 6, Plattsburgh, N.Y. 12901.

For information, call Deacon Tyrone and Madeleine Rabideau at 518/236-5511.

St. Alphonsus schedules summer Bible program

AUBURN — St. Alphonsus Parish, 10 Lewis St., has scheduled its Vacation Bible School for July 12-16. Sessions will take place from 9:30 a.m. to noon each day during the week.

Based on the theme, "Living in God's Creation," the school will in-

clude Bible study, art activities, music, recreation and worship.

The school will be open to youths from age 4 through the sixth grade. Registrations are currently being accepted. To register, call the Christian Formation Office at 315/253-6147.