

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

DeSales course is fun, yet complex

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GENEVA — It's a course during which you can spend time at the lake and visit an amusement park.

A course in which the teacher lets you choose the assignments.

In other words, it's seemingly a dream come true for your typical high-school student.

So why are there only seven people currently enrolled in this class at DeSales High School?

Well, despite its many appealing elements, qualification standards for "Principles of Engineering" are rigid and the work itself can be quite complex.

This innovative course is in its third year at DeSales, 90 Pulteney St. According to its instructor, Ted Mullen, the Geneva-based secondary institution is among only a handful of high schools in the Finger Lakes offering the program.

"Principles of Engineering" is open to juniors and seniors. To qualify, one must have completed a physics course or currently be enrolled in one. Mullen noted that the class is accepted for college credit at several universities.

Beginning in 1991, with the aid of a private donation, DeSales was able to equip a classroom with five computer terminals containing the Autocad program for mechanical drawing.

Employing Autocad as well as Mullen's guidance, students split into small groups and determine their own subject matter.

"It's not so much I'm a teacher as a mentor," Mullen remarked.

"He leaves us alone, but puts us back on if we get off track a little bit," senior Dan Morgan added.

"It's very independent. You kind of have to learn on your own," said senior Lindsay Higgins.

Morgan, along with senior Carl Sorman and junior Dan Anderson, is currently examining ways in which the DeSales school building can be better equipped to conserve energy.

Morgan said that the project was inspired one frigid day when "we were sit-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

DeSales High School students involved in the engineering class taught by Ted Mullen (from top left) are Sarah Cataline, Rachel Tredinnick, Lindsay Higgins, Dan Morgan, Pat Guard and Carl Sorman.

ting next to the window and it was cold."

Higgins and fellow senior Rachel Tredinnick are assessing the quality of drinking water in Keuka Lake. By employing their engineering knowledge, their task is find a solution if they discover impurities.

Already, Higgins noted, she and Tredinnick have begun designing a device known as a "Fabulous Faucet Filter."

"You hook it onto the end of your faucet. It takes out bacteria, lead and other pollutants," Higgins explained.

Seniors Pat Guard and Sarah Cataline are studying the use of solar energy. Not only are they devising a solar panel which can be put on the sides of houses, but Guard noted that they will also con-

struct the panel themselves.

Guard said that solar power was an intriguing subject because its supply level is more plentiful than other natural energy resources, such as oil.

"Probably, our sun is the best bet, because it will be around forever," said Guard.

This coming spring, the DeSales class will venture up to Sea Breeze Park in Rochester. They plan to conduct a physics study of various amusement-park rides to determine "exactly what happens that makes the ride give you that thrilling feeling," said Mullen.

Yet he added that the trip will not be limited to all work and no play. "They'll get to ride all the rides for fun, too," Mullen remarked.

Parish tithe allows its school to be tuition-free

By Mary St. Pierre
Catholic News Service

OCALA, Fla. — As at any other Catholic school in the Orlando diocese, students at Blessed Trinity in Ocala pray before class and wear uniforms.

What separates Blessed Trinity from the others is the fact that it is a tuition-free school, made possible by parishioners' commitment to tithing.

Tuition in the Orlando diocese for a Catholic elementary school averages \$1,442 for the 1993-94 year and average tuition for high school is \$2,930. Tuition at most of the schools usually goes up annually from 3 to 10 percent to meet rising operational costs.

With so much hinging on money to operate a church and school, Father Patrick Sheedy, Blessed Trinity pastor, suggested to his parish council that the parish become a completely tithing church. If parishioners agreed to tithe 8 percent of their income each month, they would be entitled to all parish services, including sacramental programs, adult education, counseling and school for their children, free of charge.

Father Sheedy cited Father Tom McGread, pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Wichita, Kan., as an example of stewardship success. He said Father McGread's parish and school have operated and thrived for 20 years through tithing.

With parish council backing, the idea had Blessed Trinity parishioners rallying around it.

"This is not a program," Father Sheedy told The Florida Catholic, diocesan newspaper. "This is a way of life with our focal point being that the first fruits a person gives, they give to God."

Tithing involves families sharing time, talent and treasure with the church and school.

Volunteers have more than doubled since stewardship began. With Blessed Trinity in the midst of \$1 million building project for a new gym and middle school, professional volunteers like electrical engineer Bruce Burnett have provided what otherwise would be costly services.

Blessed Trinity principal Fran Harwas said there has always been "a lot of community involvement in the school, but stewardship has heightened people's awareness that running a school isn't just a financial thing."

"The most beautiful aspect of all this is everybody is tithing, which makes everybody equal, and everybody has something to give. It has been amazing to see the many gifts people do have."

The parish in turn tithes 10 percent of its collection to charity. It also has inaugurated a 24-hour adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to highlight the spiritual aspect of stewardship.

The tithing plan is "an act of faith," added Father Sheedy. "I believe in it and I believe it is the only way to go. There is no going back."

Events to mark Catholic Schools Week

The theme for the 20th annual Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 30 to Feb. 5, is "Support Catholic Schools — Your Choice for Education."

The following schools in the Rochester diocese have notified the *Catholic Courier* of events marking the week:

St. Michael's School, 320 S. Main St., Newark, has scheduled a pancake breakfast from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 30. The breakfast, to be held at St. Gregory's Church, 3806 Union St., Marion, will benefit the eighth-grade class trip.

That same day students will participate in the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Michael's. A coffee hour will follow.

In addition:

Students will also hold a door decorating contest at the school Feb. 1;

Ann Ginder, who has taught in Catholic schools for 30 years, will be honored Feb. 2, which will be proclaimed Ann Ginder Day in Newark;

Students and faculty will have their throats blessed Feb. 3, the feast of St. Blaise. The school will also be open from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for tours and enrollment information, with the Home School Association sponsoring a free ice cream social.

In addition, student winners in an essay contest in which they described

why they like St. Michael's School will present public service announcements on area radio stations during Catholic Schools Week.

Immaculate Conception School, 320 W. Buffalo St., Ithaca, is sponsoring two events in conjunction with Catholic Schools Week.

An open house will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 7 p.m. Faculty, staff and parents will be on hand to show and describe the school to visitors.

In addition, a brown-bag lunch with school principal Diana Baker will take place on Feb. 3 at noon in the school cafeteria. Beverages will be provided.

Catholic Schools Week marks the beginning of the school's enrollment period for 1994-95. Children must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 1994, to enroll in the pre-kindergarten program; or 5 years old by Dec. 1 to enroll in kindergarten. New students are being accepted in all grades, pre-K through 8.

For information on the complete Catholic Schools Week schedule, call 607/273-2707.

Holy Family Catholic Schools, Elmira have scheduled re-registration dates for all families with students currently in the system, as well as registration dates for new families.

Re-registration for all grades will take place Monday, Jan. 31, and Tuesday, Feb. 1, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. both evenings, at Holy Family Intermediate School, 301 Demarest Parkway.

Registration and open house, for families new to the system, will take place on Feb. 7 from 6-8 p.m. at all three school buildings: Holy Family Primary School, 421 Fulton St., for grades pre-K through 3 as well as various day-care programs; Holy Family Intermediate School, for grades 4-6; and Holy Family Junior High School, 1010 Davis St., for grades 7-8.

For details on any of these registrations, call 607/734-4414.

St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place, Pittsford, has scheduled a walk-through from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 1:15 to 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1. All are welcome to walk through K-6 grade classrooms.

So as not to disturb students, organizers ask for parents to leave young children home. Call 716/586-5200 for information.

Holy Cross School, 4488 Lake Ave., Rochester, will hold an open house from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 1. The parish has also planned a special parish liturgy for the week.

Call 716/663-6533 for information.