

Education

County school board readies to supplant quadrant panels

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

As of Aug. 16, diocesan schools in Monroe County will be under the supervision of the Monroe County School Board.

Although some quadrant committees overseeing such areas as finance and marketing will continue to work under the county board's oversight, the Quadrant Governance Boards will be dissolved.

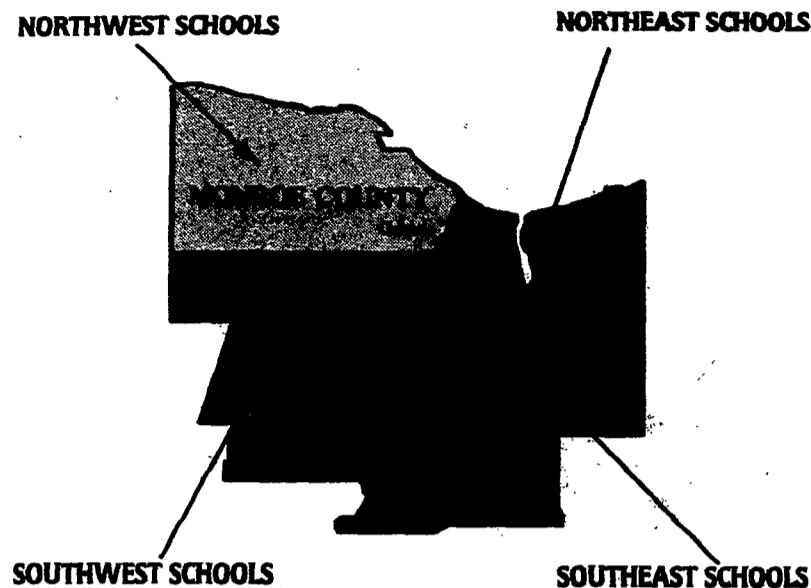
According to Timothy W. Dwyer, superintendent of schools for the Rochester diocese, no more than 20 members will comprise the board, which will consist of at least four priests, representatives of parishes with and without schools, and a cross section of representatives from across Monroe County with expertise in such areas as law, marketing, business, finance, planning and development. Board members will be appointed for three-year terms, and will be able to serve more than one term.

Dwyer said in an interview Aug. 2 that he is pursuing a few more board members and that he must still meet with Bishop Matthew H. Clark to finalize appointments. A chairman will most likely be selected at the Aug. 16 meeting, he said. Dwyer will serve as an ex-officio member of the board.

The Monroe County School Board will be charged with setting general policies for the county's diocesan schools. Those policies will include such areas as tuition, cost-per-pupil expenditures and parish subsidies. It will also help to centralize maintenance and purchasing to save costs.

In addition, the board will serve as a consultative body to Bishop Clark on such issues as school closings.

Dwyer emphasized, however, that a Monroe County school's



day-to-day operation will remain in the hands of the school's administrators. Dwyer also noted that schools will continue to operate with quadrant-level budgets, and that area boards — one for each school — will continue to exist because "they are so spread out, and each school has unique situations."

Diocesan schools outside Monroe County will continue to function under the current cluster system, he noted.

The Monroe County School Board has actually been in existence since July, 1993, Dwyer noted. The past year has been marked by transition with the county board supplanting the quadrant boards, he said.

He added that the decision to form the new board came about, in part, at the prompting of quadrant board leaders because the quadrant system was proving unwieldy.

"I think what we found in the (Catholic) Schools Office was a situation where we were not functioning as a schools system, but (rather) we were functioning as four school systems," Dwyer said. "What we hope to do is to combine our efforts and to create balance."

William Cody, who was a member of the Northwest Quadrant Governance Board, will serve as one of the Monroe County School Board's members. He pointed out that the quadrant structure helped to decrease awareness of what was happening in other parts of the county.

"None of us really got to see how the other sections were doing," Cody said. "The new school board is really going to be more of a governing authority, but will be able to look at the entire system and not just sectionalize."

Furthermore, the quadrant board system tended to separate the schools from parents, noted Cody, a parishioner of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Brockport.

"What we're attempting to do with the (Monroe County School) board is give the local school committees more of a sense that they have say," Cody said.

In fact, Cody added, he sees one of the county board's charges as encouraging and supporting local school committees to help promote better communication and "a sense of ownership."

Cardinal: Campus ministers must link learning, faith

By Amy Bunce
Catholic News Service

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Campus ministers, while fulfilling their central mission of pastoral care, must also guide students in integrating classroom learning with the Catholic faith, according to the prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education.

Cardinal Pio Laghi, former papal representative in the United States, gave the keynote address at a symposium commemorating Monsignor Edward J. Duncan's 50th anniversary as director of the Newman Foundation and chaplain at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana.

The symposium, titled "Building the Church of Tomorrow, Serving the Youth of Today," was held in April at the university's Student Union.

The most essential aspect of campus ministry, according to Cardinal Laghi — who in the 1980s was Pope John Paul II's official representative in the United States — is providing the sacraments, religious guidance and other forms of pastoral care to individual students.

Campus ministry "has brought the celebration of the Eucharist into the university and formed communities there. This traditional form of campus ministry can never be replaced," he said.

Still, campus ministers must develop a form of pastoral care specific to the university setting, he said, by encouraging a "meeting of scientific and learning discovery — what students learn in their courses — to their faith."

For many students, the years spent at college are a "parenthesis in their life of faith," the cardinal said.

"The tendency of people in the university (is) to separate their faith from their university activities ... The meeting and dialogue of faith with the world of the university is strictly limited."

To counter this tendency, priests involved in campus ministry must be aware of what students are learning and experiencing in order to guide them to the realization that there is no gap between Christian faith and scientific truth.

"If this does not happen, there is a risk of graduates either living in a separated world (of faith and learning) or leaving the faith com-

pletely," said Cardinal Laghi.

Another danger is the "fragmentation" of ideas that may result from a university education that primarily prepares students for work in a specific field. "(Students) all collect a lot of information, but they don't put it together into a picture which is a complete one," Cardinal Laghi said.

"When you go to class, you learn a lot of elements. But, you have to realize faith is not only elements, faith is a person," the cardinal added.

While students are very receptive to "horizontal values" — human rights, solidarity, peace and justice — the message is empty without the "vertical value" found in the person of God, he said.

The symposium, the concluding event in a two-day celebration of Monsignor Duncan's anniversary at Newman, also featured talks by such nationally known figures as Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, retired president of the University of Notre Dame, and the Rev. Martin Marty, Protestant theologian and senior editor of *The Christian Century* magazine.

In his presentation, Dr. Marty offered a portrait of the average Catholic university student.

Today, Catholics are the highest educated identifiable group in the United States, as well as the largest religious group represented on college campuses, he said. Moreover, the percentage of Catholic freshmen is slightly higher than the percentage of Catholics in the general population.

Because of these factors, Catholic students will have a large impact not just on the church but on the whole of society.

"The private and individual search is intense during these years," Dr. Marty said, and college is often a time for students to return to a sense of community. "What happens when (Catholic students) come together and find community is decisive to American culture."

While the average Catholic student enrolled in a college or university lacks a strong sense of community with the church, and may attend Mass infrequently, he or she still identifies with being a Catholic. In that sense Catholics are becoming a "people" more than a "church," Dr. Marty said.

John Roberto to address family conference

ROCHESTER — John Roberto, director and co-founder of the Center for Youth Ministry Development in Naugatuck, Conn., will be the keynote speaker for an Oct. 28-29 conference titled "Families: Where Ministries Meet" at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St.

Sponsored by Faith Development Ministry of the Rochester diocese, the conference will explore the relationship between families and parishes. The event was planned in response to the diocese's recommendation to make lifelong religious education its top priority after last October's Synod.

According to organizers, the two-day gathering will combine fall Ministry Day with Superintendent's Conference Day. It invites both professional church ministers as well as volunteer catechetical and youth ministry leadership to gain a "deeper un-



derstanding of the links between families and parishes.

Roberto's keynote addresses are titled "Understanding the Family Today," "Developing a Partnership Between Families and Parishes, Families and Catholic Schools" and "Promoting Family Faith Growth in Families." He will also lead a workshop on "Connections: Families and Youth," which will offer practical approaches, strategies and activities for implementing a family perspective in youth ministry and for working with parents of adolescents.

Roberto holds a master's degree in religious education from Fordham University. In

addition to being involved in professional youth ministry at the parish, diocesan and university levels since 1973, he has taught at numerous colleges and universities across the country. He is a nationally recognized trainer in the areas of youth ministry, family ministry and religious education. He is also the author and editor of several publications on youth and family ministry.

The fee for registrations post-marked by Oct. 7 is \$25 for both Friday and Saturday; \$15 for one-day registration only. After Oct. 7, fees are \$35 (two-day) and \$25 (one-day). No telephone registrations will be accepted. Lunch will not be provided. A list of downtown restaurants will be included in program materials. The registration deadline is Oct. 18.

Call 716/328-3210 for information on hotel accommodations.