

Most Precious Blood School will close in June

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Disappointment greeted the Rochester diocese's Jan. 27 announcement that Most Precious Blood School, 179 Stenson St., will close at the end of the 1994-95 school year.

In addition to the school closing, Timothy W. Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of schools, announced that kindergarten classes at Guardian Angels School, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, will merge with Good Shepherd School, 3288 E. Henrietta Road joining other grades that had previously moved to Good Shepherd.

Meanwhile, the Wegman Early Education (WEE) program at Guardian Angels will be expanded.

Dwyer also announced that with the graduation of its eighth-grade class this June, Holy Rosary School, 420 Lexington Ave., will complete its transition to a school housing pre-kindergarten through sixth-grade students. However, parents and school officials have been notified that Holy Rosary will have to maintain a 15-1 student-teacher ratio during the 1995-96 school year to avoid any future changes.

As part of efforts to keep that enrollment up at Holy Rosary School, pastors of parishes in the Northwest Quadrant have agreed to create a fund to help the school keep tuition down.

In a press conference at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Gates, Dwyer explained that the closing of Most Precious Blood School — which houses pre-kindergarten to second-grade students — was due to low enrollment coupled with increasing costs. Enrollment in the pre-kindergarten program is 29, while the number of K-2 students is 44.

"While Most Precious Blood's academic program has been outstanding, we feel that there will be more educational opportunities if those children were in a program with additional grades and additional students," Dwyer said.

Parents were notified of the closing through letters sent home Jan. 26. They also met with the school's principal, William Davis, that same night.

Most Precious Blood students will be absorbed by area Catholic schools, mainly Holy Family and Holy Rosary schools. Two years ago MPB's third-through-sixth grades were merged with Holy Family.

Dwyer noted that diocesan officials will help MPB's five full-time and two part-time administrators and professional employees find employment in other Catholic schools.

Kathy Carpino, the school's secretary and president of the Home School As-

sociation, has two children enrolled at MPB. In addition to placing her children in area Catholic schools, she intends to seek a job at one of those schools as well.

Carpino noted that she had heard about the possibility of the school's closing "through the grapevine," but hadn't heard anything official until the letters were sent home.

"It surprised me," Carpino acknowledged. "We thought it might be open a little longer."

MPB parents were in the process of considering ways to raise money and increase enrollment at the school, but those plans had been on hold until the diocese made a decision concerning its

future, Carpino observed.

Although disappointed, Carpino said she understood the reasoning behind the school's closing.

Davis, likewise, expressed disappointment over the school's closing. He was pleased, however, with the handling of the Jan. 26 meeting with school parents.

"I think parents came away with a good feeling about the Catholic school system," Davis said.

Mary Beth Fuehrer, Holy Rosary School's principal, is hoping that "good feelings" about the system will help her school meet its student-teacher ratio.

Currently, Holy Rosary has an 18 to 1 ratio — with 44 children enrolled in the pre-K program, and 147 children in

grades K-6 and grade eight. The eighth-grade class was allowed to stay at the school to graduate as part of a reconfiguration plan announced last year.

Fuehrer noted that concern about enrollment stems in part from the situation that, unlike Monroe County's other three quadrants, the Northwest Quadrant does not have standardized tuition, and the quadrant's pastors had not put in place a plan to provide funds for Rochester's inner-city schools. Thus Holy Rosary's tuition is currently higher than, for example, that of nearby Sacred Heart School. If Holy Rosary increased its tuition further to meet expenses, the principal explained, the fear is that students will move to other schools.

Dwyer acknowledged that parishes and schools in the Northwest Quadrant have used a different funding system than the other three quadrants.

"The philosophy that was in the parishes in the Northwest Quadrant was that each school and parish was responsible for their own budgets," Dwyer explained. Parishes therefore contributed to schools on a per-pupil basis, he continued, but no fund had been set up to help out schools with greater need.

Dwyer reported, however, that pastors in the quadrant have agreed "to provide a special fund to help Holy Rosary." Although details of that assistance have yet to be worked out, it will be in place for the 1995-96 school year, the superintendent said.

Dwyer said that he does not anticipate any further announcements concerning reconfiguration of schools this year.

"I think we've configured our schools now, (so) that we're where we need to be to serve the population that exists, and hopefully, we'd like to think that with some help and planning we could continue to do that whether the enrollment goes up and down," Dwyer said. "Certainly we hope it goes up."

Ring in another year



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Rochester's Vietnamese Catholic community Jan. 29 celebrated the Vietnamese new year at St. Anthony of Padua Church, 60 Lorimer St. (Counterclockwise above) Phung Nguyen carries flowers during the opening procession; choir members sing at a reception after the Mass; as part of Vietnamese tradition, a dragon dance was performed at the reception following Mass.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 106 No. 17 February 2, 1995

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Second-Class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

THE TAX MAN COMETH!!!

And many of our 51,000 subscribers may be looking for the expert services offered by tax preparers and accountants.

Advertise your service in our special classified tax preparation section, running January 12th-April 6th, 1995.

Special pricing available.

Call Michela or Kathy in the classified advertising department for information:

Catholic Courier
(716) 328-4340

Judge denies motion to acquit Father Moloney

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — U.S. Judge David G. Larimer last week denied a defense motion to acquit Father Patrick Moloney of his conviction for conspiracy to possess money stolen from the Brink's armored truck depot two years ago.

After hearing arguments from attorneys for the defense and the prosecution, Larimer announced his decision during a Jan. 26 court proceeding at the Kenneth B. Keating Federal Building, 100 State St.

Along with fellow New York City resident, Samuel Ignatius Millar, Father Moloney was convicted last November of conspiring to receive and possess stolen cash taken from the Brink's depot in a Jan. 5, 1993 robbery.

Two other defendants, Charles M. Mc-

**BRINK'S
Trial
UPDATE**

Cormick and Thomas F. O'Connor, were acquitted of charges in connection with the heist.

Prosecutors had alleged that O'Connor, a Brink's guard at the time of the robbery, was the heist's inside man. Furthermore, prosecutors claimed

that McCormick, Millar and Father Moloney had knowingly possessed the stolen Brink's money when it reached New York City.

The Melkite priest's attorneys, Jonathan W. Feldman and William Clauss, had argued that the federal government failed to prove that western New York was the proper venue in which to hear the case against Father Moloney.

In papers filed with the court prior to Jan. 26, the priest's attorneys explained that no evidence of conspiracy in western New York was ever introduced during the trial.

"Indeed, O'Connor's acquittal on the conspiracy charge pays tribute to the fact that the jury could not have found that Father Moloney was a knowing member of any conspiracy that existed in the Western District of New York to possess stolen Brink's money," Feldman and Clauss wrote. "Because there was no nexus between the conspiracy the defendant was convicted of and the Western District of New York, there was no venue for the defendant's trial in this district."

Larimer, however, rejected this contention.

"I don't really see how O'Connor's acquittal changes Moloney's status," the judge declared, adding that the government — in its indictment — had alleged that O'Connor and "others unknown" had participated in the robbery. Even though the jury concluded O'Connor was not guilty, the jury could still rea-

Continued on page 4