

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Congregation to transfer BK to lay board on July 1

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — Ownership of Bishop Kearney High School will transfer from the Congregation of Christian Brothers to a lay board of trustees effective July 1. The sale was announced at a Jan. 11 press conference.

Brother Raymond Vercruysse, CFC, school president, explained that the new board will replace a board of trustees made up of Christian Brothers.

The new board will have full ownership. It will number approximately 18 people, Brother Vercruysse said. Many of those members, he added, will likely be gleaned from the school's current lay board of directors.

School officials declined to offer details on financial arrangements made between the Christian Brothers and the new board.

In November 1997, when school and congregation officials first announced the possibility of the ownership transfer, the school owed the congregation approximately \$1.2 million through loans

and accrued interest. At a Nov. 18, 1997, parent information session, the need to retire that debt — and the possibility that the congregation might forgive it — was cited as a key issue to be addressed.

At the Jan. 11 press conference, Raymond D'Agostino, board of directors chairman, emphasized that the Christian Brothers never discussed closing the school, as had been rumored.

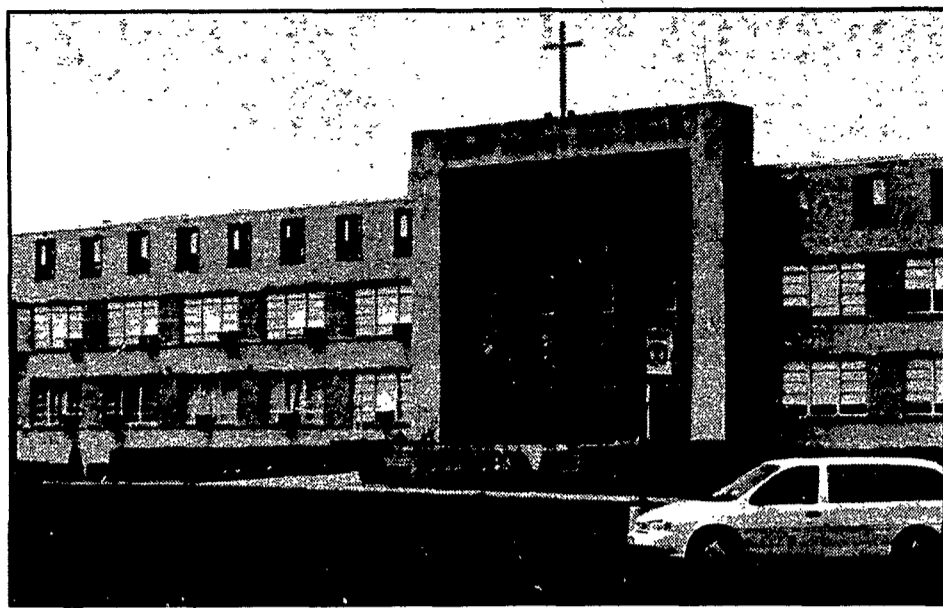
"Instead of coming to us and saying, 'We're closing,' they came to us and said, 'Let's try to work something out,'" D'Agostino remarked.

Rather, Brother James Moffett, CFC, added, discussions about the sale began more than a year ago due to declining membership in his order.

"This is a logical development of the place of the laity in the modern Catholic Church," said Brother Moffett, president of the Christian Brothers' eastern U.S. American province in New Rochelle.

Brother Vercruysse will remain as Bishop Kearney's president under the new arrangement, and Louis D'Angelo will continue as principal.

Brother Moffett said that his order's



File photo

### Bishop Kearney High School

tradition will still be evident at the high school. Christian Brothers teachers, as well as the School Sisters of Notre Dame — another congregation that has long staffed the school — will continue to "have the opportunity to serve" at Kearney, Brother Moffett said.

Four Christian Brothers and two School Sisters of Notre Dame currently serve at Bishop Kearney. This represents a dramatic staffing decrease by those congregations compared to Bishop Kearney's early days, Carmen Urzetta noted.

"I come from the days when I was in the minority, being a lay teacher," remarked Urzetta, who has taught at Bishop Kearney since 1963 — one year after the school opened.

The current enrollment of the school is approximately 500.

The transfer of ownership will be part of a far-reaching strategic plan known as "Kearney Plan 2000." Among the plan's objectives are to increase salary and benefits packages for teachers, and to begin a capital campaign for upgrading learning equipment.

According to Tim Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of schools, this development will not affect Northeastern Catholic Junior High School, which is located in the Bishop Kearney building. Whereas the high school operates independently of the Rochester Diocese, Northeastern is a diocesan-run institution.

Coming next week:

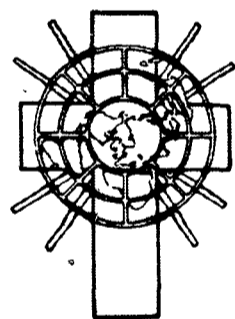
## Marriage Supplement & Wedding Guide

A Catholic Courier special supplement

This edition will explore marriage preparation programs, offer tips on ways to strengthen marriages and look at such factors as faith, which can help ensure marital happiness and success.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark is traveling in Latin America and no column was available for this issue. He plans to talk about his experiences in Chile and Brazil in future Along The Way columns.

## MISSION NEWS



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