

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Priest: Schools' 'niche' must be training souls

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff Writer

ROCHESTER — When he saw a post-modern painting titled "Circumnavigating In a Sea of S...," Father James T. Mulligan, a Canadian Catholic educator and author, concluded the provocative painting's title aptly named the challenge facing Catholic schools today.

In world of sexually explicit advertisements, voyeuristic TV shows and news journals that celebrate the rich and powerful, overflowing cultural sewage can flood the minds of students, he noted. However, Catholic educators must present a compelling alternative vision.

"We've got a story to tell," he said of Catholic educators. "The challenge is to continue to tell that story."

The Holy Cross priest has taught at the secondary level in Ontario, Canada, for 30 years, and is currently faith formation animator (coordinator) for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Father Mulligan is also an author and last year published his latest book *Catholic Education: The Future is Now*.

Father Mulligan gave the opening talk July 10 at 11th annual Institute on Catholic Education at the University of Rochester. The July 10-11 conference drew about 100 Catholic school administrators and teachers from 15 dioceses around the United States, according to Sister Edwardine Weaver, RSM. Sister Weaver is director of the professional development program at the Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development, through which the university sponsored the institute. The annual conference offers workshops and speeches on various education issues.

In his talk titled "Why the Future is Now in Catholic Education!" Father Mulligan said that in addition to the breakdown in traditional values that plague the culture, Catholic schools exist in an era of restricted finances and conflict in the church itself over various issues. More so, many students today have grown up in



two-income homes, and are primarily influenced by their peers and the culture, rather than their parents, he said, quoting various authors. Hence, there has been a breakdown in shared values like civility, evidenced by the coarseness found in daily manners and various entertainments.

Meanwhile, relativism, the idea that truth is a subjective mindset, has "infected" the minds of many students, he said, and young people are increasingly disconnected from the kinds of truths that people once passed down to the next generation. While not all young people are in dire straits, too many seem beset by despair as evidenced by the increase in suicides among young people.

"It's not right that people so young live a life of such meaninglessness," he said.

However, he said, amidst the bleak news of the day there's actually good reason to hope if one is a Catholic educator.

"A crisis is really good for us," he said. "It keeps us evangelically on edge."

Now is the time for Catholic schools to emphasize to society at large what distinguishes them from public schools, he said. While secular schools train the mind for the workplace, Catholic schools seek an eternal goal with their students.

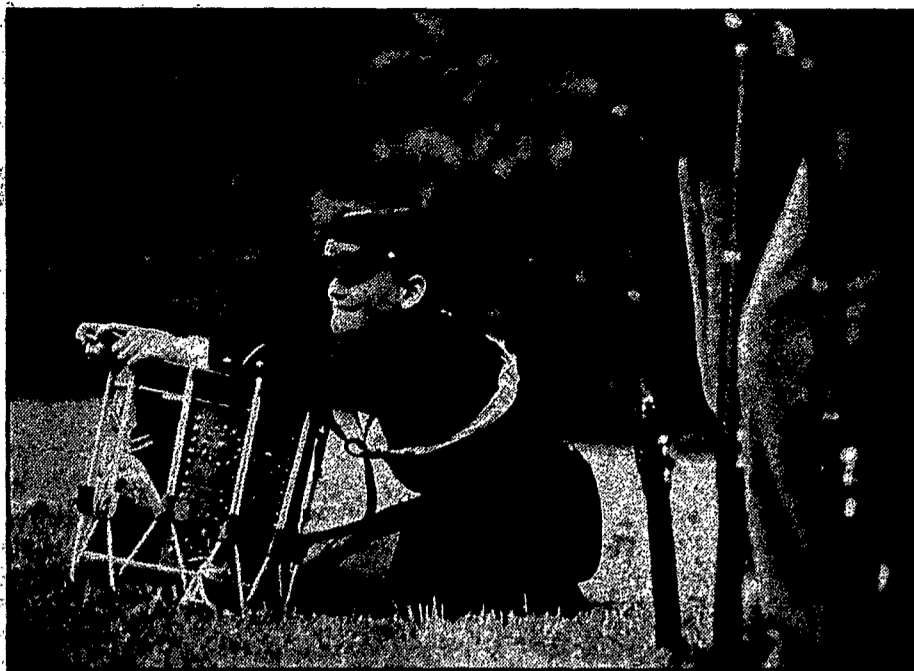
"The culture is without soul," he said. "Who is educating the soul? This is our niche."

Catholic schools should take a cue from the business world and create a "brand essence," he said, a focused image that it can sell to the public.

He likened Catholic education to a pilgrimage of thousands that should be noticed by the public for its intensity and single-mindedness.

"In these many pilgrimages, the holy place sought out and revered is the life and faith experience of each person," he said. "The grade one student learning the story of Jesus. The grade six student organizing a food drive ...

"... Any Catholic educator listening to the pain of a student and trying to be a healing presence."



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

## Remembering Erin's fallen

Chris Plering, 11, of Onondaga County and the 122nd NY Volunteer Infantry, rests during the dedication of a historic marker at Cold Springs (State Street) Cemetery in Auburn on July 8. A Mass and service were held by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, John F. Kennedy Division I, from Auburn. The "Old Catholic" cemetery is the final resting place of numerous Irish Catholic immigrants and Civil War veterans.

## Obituary

### Sister Carvalho, of Stella Maris center

Sister John Olivia Carvalho, OSF, the administrator of Stella Maris Retreat House in Skaneateles since 1978, died June 26, 2000, at the St. Anthony Motherhouse in Syracuse. She was 63.

Sister John was born in Hawaii to Portuguese parents. On Dec. 7, 1941, she was on her way to a children's Mass when Japanese planes started dropping bombs on the Naval base at Pearl Harbor. The priest from the church immediately told the children to run home and find cover.

During her teen years, Sister John worked in a pineapple canning factory to help support her family and to pay for tuition to the Catholic school.

After joining the Franciscans, Sister John taught school and served as a director of religious education in various dioceses. She

was a consultant and coordinator in the Syracuse Diocesan Religious Education Office until her appointment at Stella Maris.

Sister John's vision was to renovate and expand the center, and make it an ecumenical retreat house. She liked to sum up her philosophy about Stella Maris with four words, "Everyone is welcome here."

The center attracts retreatants from other areas, including the Rochester Diocese.

Sister John is survived by her mother, Olivia, a sister and two brothers.

Sister John's funeral Mass was celebrated July 2 at the St. Anthony Motherhouse. She was buried in Ascension Cemetery. Contributions may be made in her memory to the Stella Maris Preservation Fund, 130 E. Genesee Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152.

— Joe Sarnicola

## Pope John Paul II

### Official Postal Tribute Celebrates Pontiff's Contributions to Mankind

Conakry, Guinea — As if they were answering the prayers of devotees around the world, the Post Office has released a new Limited Edition set of 9 Official Postage Stamps honoring His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the most admired and revered man of the 20th century. Collectors and admirers of the Pontiff all around the world are suddenly scrambling to obtain one of the few remaining sets from this awe-inspiring tribute.

Collectors are already predicting that in the very near future these Pope John Paul II stamps will be far more sought after and more difficult to come by than even the most popular commemorative postage stamps of all time.

Each of the nine colorful stamps is about four times the size of a regular U.S. stamp. They're legal for postage in the nation of Guinea and they're recognized by every postal authority around the world.

They're available for a short time at \$9.95 (plus \$3 p&h) for the complete set of nine different stamps, accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity. Send your check or money order to ICS, 10045 Red Run Blvd., Suite 350BCWVT, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Credit card holders may call toll free 1-800-506-0070.

See it in color at: [www.icsnow.com](http://www.icsnow.com)



Collectors flock after Official Postage Stamp tribute to Pope John II.

## Are you between the ages of 65 and 84 years old?

A multi-center research study is currently underway to investigate a medication which may decrease your risk of physical decline and body composition with advancing age.

### TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST:

- Be able to walk without the aid of a walker or another person (persons requiring the use of a cane are eligible)
- Not have evidence of an acute medical condition such as angina, convulsions, diabetes or history of cancer
- Not have uncontrolled high blood pressure or take more than 2 drugs for blood pressure control
- Not have a history of inflammatory disease of joints or bone (such as arthritis) that requires treatment with steroids
- Not be taking a blood thinner medication (except for aspirin)

### QUALIFIED VOLUNTEERS WILL RECEIVE:

COMPENSATION FOR TIME AND TRAVEL,  
FREE EKGs, LAB WORK, PHYSICAL EXAMS  
AND STUDY MEDICATION

If you would like more information or think you may be eligible for the study, please contact the physician's office listed.

University of Rochester • Center for Lifetime Wellness  
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