

ND seeks campaign funds

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

ELMIRA — Notre Dame High School is hoping to increase public awareness in order to complete a \$4.26 million capital campaign that began in 2001.

Mark Wayne, director of capital campaign and major gifts at Notre Dame, said the initiative, known as the Legacy of Values Campaign, has raised nearly \$1.6 million during its "quiet phase" during the past two years. A mass mailing will go out to Notre Dame alumni this summer as the campaign moves into a public phase.

Proceeds will go toward expansion and refurbishing of the coeducational school, located at 1400 Maple Ave. Mercy Sister Mary Walter Hickey, the school's principal, said she hopes construction work will begin by summer.

— This is the most significant renovation effort in Notre Dame's history. According to Sister Hickey, the campaign was prompted by two factors: aging of the 47-year-old structure and increasing enrollment. This year's student population is 383, compared to fewer than 300 students in the early 1990s.

Highlighting the project will be a new science wing, costing an estimated \$1.3 million. Sister Hickey noted that the wing will offer badly

needed laboratory and lecture space. For example, she said, current science facilities — which are essentially unchanged since the school opened in 1955 — force physics and chemistry to be taught in the same room. The science wing will be named for a long-time teacher, Mercy Sister Mary Carmella Coene, 94, who still serves as a tutor at Notre Dame. (A profile on Sister Coene appeared in the Jan. 30 *Catholic Courier*.)

The school's locker rooms will get a \$600,000 overhaul, particularly designed to create better conditions for female students. Although girls' sports were not yet prevalent when the high school opened, more than 70 percent of the female students now compete in athletics at Notre Dame. Roughly the same percentage of boys participate in the athletic program.

Among the campaign's other key components are endowments for scholarships and faculty development (\$1.2 million); renovations for health and safety involving the auditorium stage, handicap access, windows, brick and masonry work, plumbing, and electrical (\$800,000); and cafeteria expansion (\$360,000).

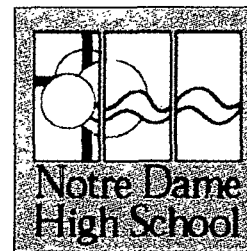
Wayne said these priorities emerged from a strategic plan that was developed in 1998. Although work could be completed within the

space of six months, Sister Hickey said she does not wish to commit to a particular time table until campaign pledges — to be collected over a five-year period — are significantly closer to the \$4.26 million goal. "We hope to at least to be able to do the locker rooms by the summer. Perhaps we will have to phase it in," Sister Hickey said, adding that she expects the project to be finished in time for the school's 50th-anniversary celebration during the 2005-06 school year.

Two Elmira firms, Foor & Associates and Welliver McGuire Inc., are serving as the project's architect and construction company, respectively.

This is the first capital campaign ever conducted at Notre Dame, the only Catholic high school in the Southern Tier of the Rochester Diocese. Sister Hickey doesn't expect her school's campaign to conflict with the capital campaign being launched by the Diocese of Rochester this year, saying that she hopes potential donors will see fit to support both initiatives.

"We both have a cause that's important," she said.



Catholics react to Bush's speech

Partial-birth abortion, cloning bans supported

Mark Pattison/CNS

WASHINGTON — Immediate Catholic reaction to President Bush's Jan. 28 State of the Union address showed support for Bush's requests to Congress to pass a faith-based funding initiative and bans on partial-birth abortion and cloning.

Catholic groups, though, stayed silent on the subject of the potential for war with Iraq, which dominated the latter part of Bush's address.

One of the guests listening to the address from first lady Laura Bush's box was Sister Maria Fest, a Sister of Divine Providence who founded and directs Catholic Nuns in Service, a family support services center in Pittsburgh. The program offers intervention and counseling to families suffering from domestic abuse, experiencing illness or participating in the welfare system.

The Catholic League for Religious

and Civil Rights applauded Bush's push for Congress to pass his faith-based initiative. The move stalled in the Senate late last year. After Congress adjourned, Bush issued some executive orders that implemented part of his plan to have religious-based groups get a more equal footing in qualifying for federal funds.

"We know from the work of Harvard economist Richard Freeman that there is an inverse relationship between churchgoing and deviancy," said a Jan. 28 statement from Catholic League president William Donohue. "When his study was replicated many years later, (it) found that urban black youth were less likely to commit to drugs and delinquency if they were churchgoers."

The National Right to Life Committee cheered the request for a ban on partial-birth abortion and cloning.

Bush said during his speech, "Because no human life should be started or ended as the object of an experiment, I ask you to set a high standard for humanity and pass a law against all human cloning."

The NRLC, in a Jan. 28 statement, said this was "a clear call" for passage of bills in the House and Senate which would ban all human cloning, including the cloning of embryos for research purposes.

Father Michael Place, Catholic Health Association president and CEO, voiced hope for an agreement on expanding health care and making it more affordable.

"It is time to turn the health care rhetoric into action because there is no single issue more important to the strength of our nation and no single issue so in need of reform," he said in a Jan. 28 statement, adding "Adequate funding of Medicare and Medicaid and of health care coverage expansion should be a priority of the 108th Congress before enacting tax cuts."

Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va., praised Bush in a Jan. 30 statement for his proposal to provide \$15 billion in funding for projects that will help to end the AIDS epidemic in Africa and around the world.

SUITS FORCE BOSTON TO SELL 11 PROPERTIES

BOSTON (CNS) — Faced with 70 new sex-abuse lawsuits and a growing operating deficit, the Boston Archdiocese has taken steps to sell at least 11 properties and is planning to close financially troubled schools.

The Associated Press quoted Bishop Richard G. Lennon, apostolic administrator of Boston, as saying that bankruptcy "certainly is an option," but selling off property and using insurance money remain his current focus for settling hundreds of lawsuits filed by alleged victims of childhood abuse.

TRANSSEXUAL BAN SENT TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has sent superiors of religious orders a confidential document prohibiting transsexuals from entering consecrated life and requiring expulsion or suspension of religious who undergo "sex-change" operations.

Citing the issue's complexity and the danger of scandal, the document instructs superiors of men's and women's religious orders to submit cases of transsexualism to the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, which it said was designated by Pope John Paul II to handle all such cases to ensure uniformity.

The document was sent with a cover letter from Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

The text acknowledges that transsexualism is a "rare pathology" but said issues surrounding sexual identity and sex change were commonly accepted in modern culture and "raise important problems in the ecclesial ambient."

BISHOP: GIVE RESPECT TO ASYLUM SEEKERS

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — Bishop Patrick O'Donoghue of Lancaster, chairman of the Office for Refugee Policy of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, has urged that asylum seekers should be treated with dignity and respect.

The statement was issued in response to "mixed signals from the government" and media coverage linking asylum seekers with terrorism threats.

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