

Veteran educator is principal in Auburn

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Kathleen A. Coye, former assistant superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Syracuse, became principal of St. Joseph's School in Auburn earlier this month.

Coye replaces Stephen P. Miskell, who had been principal since August 2002. Miskell left in June to pursue other opportunities, according to Sister Elizabeth Meegan, OP, superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Rochester.

Coye brings with her 31 years of experience in education. As assistant superintendent in the Syracuse Diocese for the last decade, Coye oversaw two junior/senior high schools; six elementary schools; three school boards and equal number of finance committees; staff development; and system marketing efforts.

Before serving as an assistant superintendent, Coye was principal of St. Mary's School in Oswego for seven years. Coye also has classroom experience, having taught grades

Education

three, five and six from 1976-83 at her elementary alma mater, Syracuse's Blessed Sacrament School. While there, she also coordinated a reading program and worked on the diocesan committee that wrote the English curriculum. Coye also spent two years teaching at St. Michael's School in Levelland, Texas, where she organized a parish-based teen recreation program.

Coye is a graduate of Sacred Heart College in Belmont, N.C., and worked there as assistant director of admissions. She has a master's degree in educational administration from the State University of New York College at Oswego.

Coye said she missed daily school life and that's why she took the job at St. Joseph's, which houses grades pre-kindergarten to eight.

"I wanted to go back to being a principal because that's where you could keep in touch with the stu-



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Preparing to fly a kite

Kindergartner Ryan Sandroni works diligently on his kite April 30 during Kite Day at St. Patrick's School in Seneca Falls.

dents, faculty and parents and be effective with curriculum," Coye said.

She added that although she's had offers to work in public schools, she's committed to Catholic education.

"Our faith dimension is very important in the Catholic schools," she said. "You're constantly involved with the faith community of the faculty and students, and that's always been important to me. It's where I'm most at home."

In a press statement, Sister Meegan welcomed Coye's appointment.

"The extensive experience in administration that she brings will certainly help us to maintain the tradition of excellence that the people of Auburn expect," Sister Meegan said. "I am sure that parents of children enrolled at St. Joseph's will be happy to partner with Kathleen and the rest of the staff to ensure that their children reap the many benefits of a Catholic education. Similarly, our recruitment of Kathleen reflects the Diocese of Rochester's firm commitment to St. Joseph and the Auburn community."

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God back in French schools

Terrence Murray/CNS

PARIS — Public schools in staunchly secular France are planning to bring God back into the classroom.

In June, France's Education Ministry launched the European Institute for the Study of Religions to educate teachers on religion. The institute will begin teacher training during the new school year in September in Versailles and Lyon, two of the country's largest school districts.

"We are facing a generation that knows little about this country's religious heritage," said Regis Debray, one of the project's coordinators.

In a nation where separation of church and state is a defining characteristic, this marks a new chapter for France's deeply rooted secular traditions.

"It is not catechism," said Debray. The program would discuss the his-

tory and development of all religions, he said.

"True secularism has to take into account the components defining men and women. Religion is one of them," said Father Stanislas Lalanne, general secretary of the French bishops' conference.

This could be an opportunity for students "to at least hear about God," Father Lalanne said.

Father Lalanne said he likes the proposed curriculum because it won't be limited to history, but will include religion's influence on economics and literature.

In France, relations between public schools and organized religion has traditionally been tense. Until the mid-'90s, textbooks did not mention God.

In his report, Debray advocates teaching France's religious heritage, not as a new class, but spread across existing courses like philosophy, history and economics.

Mike Latona

PITTSFOU rounding th onship and camp swirled Bernard's St. Ministry were big event.

And there among the th the golf tou camp will ha' ford, wherea tling in for g

"We're he stated Sister Schoelles, St.

On Aug. 4, Bernard's w to its brand-n Road. The 1 gle-story bui cent to the ne Motherhouse uary of this y

Constructic but complete Sept. 3 as p French Road. Bernard's ha For the previ uate lay inst Colgate Roch School, 1100 Rochester.

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According t