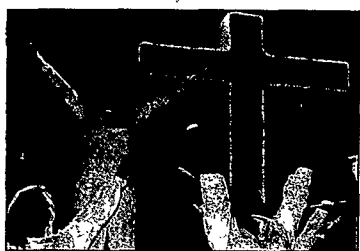


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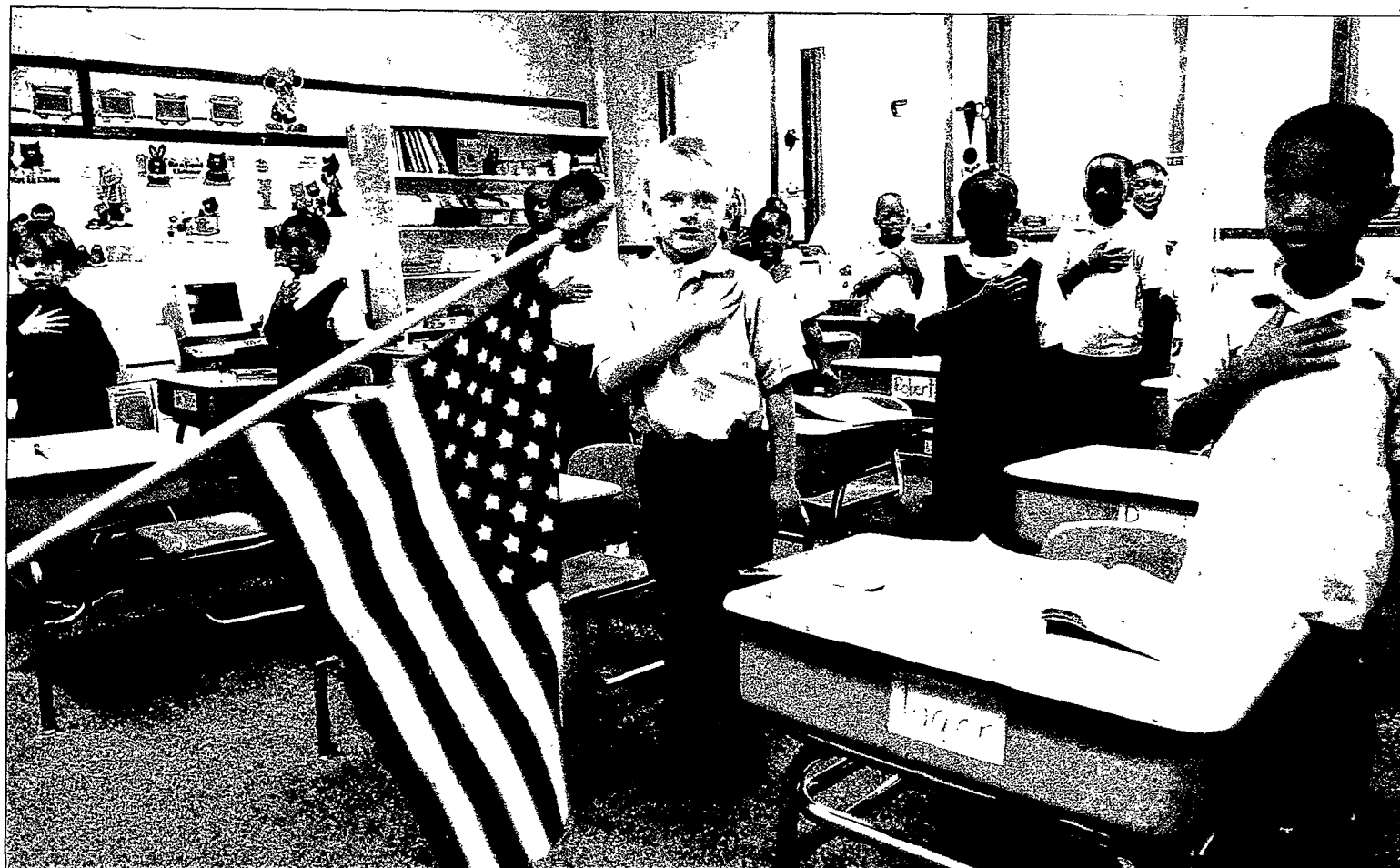


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Six-year-olds Erik Van Dame (front row, from far left), Mark Jarvis, and Jaqon McCall say the Pledge of Allegiance with their first-grade class at Rochester's Corpus Christi School Sept. 19. Fourteen percent of the \$50 million Partners in Faith goal is earmarked for an endowment fund that will enable the diocese to maintain Catholic-school tuition at affordable levels.

Pledging to Partners in Faith

Campaign raises more than \$30 million to date

Father Robert J. Schrader, pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Auburn, knows the exact moment his parish surpassed its \$655,000 fundraising goal for Partners in Faith, the Diocese of Rochester's \$50-million capital campaign.

"It was 12:55 p.m., Aug. 11," he said, noting that parish campaign leaders had first met in March.

Father Schrader said he was impressed by how his parishioners responded to Partners in Faith, in spite of economic woes as well as the news of war and the sexual-abuse crisis in the church. He said

some parishioners questioned the timing of the campaign, but he said he couldn't remember a year that didn't have some bad news.

"There's always something in the news either locally or worldwide to say: 'This isn't a good time,'" Father Schrader said. "I think our people were — as they always are — generous and supporting of Partners in Faith and the objectives there."

Partners in Faith has raised more than \$30 million toward its \$50 million overall goal, Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced during a Sept. 24 press conference at the new campus of St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Pittsford. Diocesan and parish officials noted that gifts have included one worth \$2.5 million,

as well as several five- and six-figure gifts.

FUNDED INITIATIVES

Partners in Faith is intended to provide funding for the following ministries or endeavors:

- **Diocesan parishes:** 50 percent of the funds raised from a given parish will be returned to the parish for its own needs.
- **Department of Catholic Schools:** Endowment funds will be used to maintain school tuition at an affordable level.
- **Sacred Heart Cathedral:** 12 percent of proceeds will go toward the cathedral preservation and renovation project.
- **Priests' pension fund:** Proceeds will

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Story by Rob Cullivan • Photos by Karin von Voigtlander

