

SEVEN AREA SCHOOLS TO GET NEW PRINCIPALS

Seven Catholic schools have named new principals. They are:

- **Holy Rosary School, Rochester:** Kathleen Dougherty will replace Mary Beth Fuehrer. She has taught in local public schools as well as at St. Theodore's in Gates and Sacred Heart in Rochester. She was assistant principal at All Saints Catholic Academy in Gates for seven years.

- **Sacred Heart School, Rochester:** Monette Mahoney, former principal of St. Joseph School in Wayland (see related story on page A4), will replace Sister of St. Joseph Stephanie Riley. Mahoney has also served as a music teacher in diocesan schools; coordinator of education, catechetical and musical ministries at several parishes; and as pastoral associate for faith formation and outreach at St. Mary's Parish in Canandaigua.

- **St. Michael's School, Newark:** Shannon Heller will replace David Doty.

- **St. Monica's School, Rochester:** Olena Lylak will replace Sister Mary Marvin, RSM. Lylak has served as principal of Rochester's Nazareth Academy and director of instruction for the Nazareth Schools.

- **Siena Catholic Academy, Brighton:** Timothy Leahy will replace Father Joseph A. Grasso, CPpS. From 1967-73, he taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Brighton, then was named principal. From 1976-79 he was deputy superintendent and later superintendent of diocesan schools. He then held a series of senior management positions at Chase Manhattan Bank and, after his retirement in 2000, he became assistant principal at Siena.

- **Aquinas Institute, Rochester:** Father Grasso will replace Sally Cardilli, who retired. Father Grasso had been principal of Siena since 1998.

- **Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton:** Vilma Goetting will replace Evelyn Kirst. Since 2002, Goetting was principal of Irondequoit's Bishop Hogan Catholic Academy, which closed at the end of the 2003-04 school year. She has worked as a teacher and principal at Aquinas Institute and as a teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School and St. John the Evangelist School in Greece.

Local school's leader leaves post

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Mary Beth Fuehrer has left Rochester's Holy Rosary School after more than three decades of service there, retiring from her position as principal at the end of the 2003-04 school year. She has undertaken a new, part-time position as faith-formation coordinator at St. Michael's Parish in Rochester.

"I think I've come to an age where I need one-half of a job instead of a job and a half," Fuehrer said in a recent interview with the *Catholic Courier*.

Fuehrer earned a bachelor's degree in Latin in 1967 and a master's degree in elementary education in 1976 from Rochester's Nazareth College. She began teaching at Holy Rosary School in September 1967 and stayed there until 1985.

In 1985 Fuehrer left Holy Rosary to become faith-formation coordinator for St. Michael's Parish, where she remained for the next three years. In 1988, she returned to Holy Rosary School, this time as its principal.

Fuehrer said she found the roles of both teacher and principal to be rewarding. Working as a teacher at the school for 18 years gave her the experience and maturity she needed to lead the school as principal, she said.

Fuehrer said she has seen many changes take place at the school during her tenure, with the most dramatic one being the Dec. 19, 1981, fire that burned the school building to the ground. Classes were held in the former Holy Apostles School building on Rochester's Lyell Avenue until September 1984, when they were moved to the new Holy Rosary School building, which Fuehrer dubbed a "phoenix from the ashes."

Fuehrer has also seen positive changes at the school. In 1989, for example, she brought the Rochester City School District's hot-lunch program to Holy Rosary. Before the introduction of that program, many students simply did not bring a lunch to school, "and I couldn't stand it," Fuehrer said.

In the mid-1990s, she oversaw the addition of an extended-day program, making the school open to students from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Around the same time, the school began taking part in the Wegmans Early Childhood Education Program, which enabled the school to provide preschool education and care to 3- and 4-year-olds between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Although she said she loved being a teacher and a principal, she is happy about her new position. She hopes



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

Kathleen Dougherty (left), is the new principal of Rochester's Holy Rosary School. Mary Beth Fuehrer (right) retired from that position at the end of the 2003-04 school year.

Education

her job as faith-formation coordinator will be less stressful but is glad to still be involved with Catholic education. Since most of her adult life has been spent in that field, she considers herself, as well as other teachers and principals at Catholic schools, to be professional catechists.

"I really believe that every confirmed Catholic needs to teach the word of God. Some people do it professionally like I do in a Catholic school or a religious-education program, but everyone has to do it by their words and actions or they're not doing the will of God," Fuehrer said.

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