



NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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Sr. Catherine O'Leary Named for Elementary Schools

Sr. Catherine O'Leary, O.P., principal of St. Christopher's School in Red Hook, has accepted the staff position offered to her by Rev. L. William Gordon, Board Chairman. Her official title will be Field Representative, and her area of concentration will be elementary school services.

The Search Committee of the Board consisted of Mrs. Anne Lilly, Sr. Maureen Mara, CSJ, Fr. Gordon, and Br. Peter. A number of very promising applicants were considered, with final screening and interviews at CSAANYS headquarters in Albany on April 29.

Sr. Catherine has been principal of St. Christopher's for the past four years. Prior to that she taught in both urban and suburban schools in New York State for thirteen years. She has been stationed in Manhattan and the Bronx, Mamaroneck, Nanuet, Monroe, and Fulton.

Interests

Individualization of instruction has long been a focal point of professional concern. She first began developing curriculum for individualization in mathematics 5-8 at St. Vito's in Mamaroneck in 1967.

The three "man" staff of CSAANYS will represent administrative experience in three different dioceses. Their congregations have communities in six of the eight dioceses of the state.

St. Christopher's is presently on a completely individualized instruction basis. "But that doesn't mean," Sister Catherine emphasizes, "that all the problems of educating children have been solved. We feel rather that the approach to the problems is basically sound and efficient."

She obtained for St. Christopher's a small grant from IBM to establish a Metric Workshop for both students and adults; also a \$2,300 grant through Title III for a



Sr. Catherine M. O'Leary, O.P.

guidance program in grades 1-4 based on the publication of Dr. Suger's "Seven Stories for Growth."

Education

Sister received her B.S. in Education from St. Thomas Aquinas College, Sparkill, in 1961, an M.A. in Latin Classics from Manhattan in 1966, and gained permanent certification in these areas in 1970.

She commenced higher studies in administration at New Paltz in 1971 and was awarded a Certificate of Advanced Study in Administration in 1973, as well as permanent certification in administration and supervision.

Background

Sister Catherine assures us there is nothing unusual about her background, nor very exciting.

She was born in the Bronx in 1938 and lived there with her parents and two sisters.

Educational Vouchers: Movement Is Growing

The proposed voucher experiments in New Hampshire and East Hartford, Conn., have been furthered by federal grants of \$210,000 and \$387,000 respectively. The grants come from HEW, through the NIE (National Institute of Education.)

East Hartford will test the regulated voucher (similar to Alum Rock's experiment based on voucher principles) and plans to include nonpublic schools. This of course will precipitate a court case on constitutionality.

The seven districts in N.H. will test the "open market" voucher, which permits parents to supplement with funds of their own. Public schools only will participate in first year, non-sectarian private schools in second year, and all schools in the third year of operation.

If current plans hold, both experiments should be operable in 1976-77 school year.

Inner-city Parents for Vouchers

A large group of public school parents, mostly Black and Puerto Rican, has organized in N.Y.C. to pursue "parent power" in education through vouchers. They are holding meetings, getting petitions signed at them, and in general organizing to educate the parents. They are planning also the public relations and media input to fight the NEA and teachers unions.

CSAANYS has been in contact with them and is helping them, particularly in regard to the constitutional implications of church-related schools.

Parents Federation Workshop

NYS Federation of CS Parents is planning a workshop for board members on educational vouchers. Among the participants will be speakers from the Center for the Study of Public Policy,

Special Unemployment Assistance Act

Passed in 1974 by Congress, it will expire in December 1975. Benefits approximate half a worker's wages and are payable up to 26 weeks. Applicants must meet regular unemployment insurance tests.

Teachers are not eligible unless they have a ten months contract (which is different from being paid over a ten month period) and have no contract or commitment to return to teaching in any school in September.

Nonprofessional staff would generally be eligible if they 1) worked 20 of past 52 weeks before applying, 2) earned at least \$600 in best 20 weeks, 3) did not quit or force to be fired, 4) willing and able to accept a job, 5) making active efforts to find one, 6) have not refused a suitable job.

Employers have not paid into this special fund.

Open Records — Buckley Amendment

This will not apply to nonpublic schools automatically. It is directed at schools which receive federal funds through department of HEW. Most of our schools do not receive such funds. They receive either services (which are not the same as funds) or funding through other federal agencies.

All the funds for the national lunch program come through the department of agriculture, for instance.

If a school participates in such direct funding (one example would be a Right to Read Program) then it would fall under the open records law.

The basic idea of the law — to make records available to interested parties — should not upset anyone. One difficulty with it is that it destroys all confidentiality of recommendations, and therefore the value of recommendations. It also endangers the validity of other "confidential" records.

Mandated Services Decision

The Mandated Services Act of 1970 was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1973. Payment for the second half of 71-72 year was not made. Payment for the time up to the decision was sought in the Court of Claims. In spite of precedent in Pennsylvania, the judge denied our request.

His decision was taken to the Appellate Court, where it was upheld by a 3-2 split.

Please! If there is going to be any change in the name of the administrator, the school itself, or the structure of the school, kindly send us word in June so that we can bring our address cards up to date for September.

In three critical areas, the workshops held in Batavia, Amsterdam, and Queens made more than passing grades. For the first time they operated in the black. Attendance of administrators was up. Reactions, both on the formal evaluation sheet and in informal communications, were enthusiastic.

Considering that last year's workshops were for teachers also, this year's attendance shows quite an increase in administrators attending. The most dramatic increase was in Batavia, where we more than doubled the participants and tripled the number of administrators.

A complete financial report will be included in the June statement on finances. Although all printing and telephone cost have not yet been determined, we know that a profit of several hundred dollars was realized. This will offset the loss from previous years.

Because of the strong arguments put forward in the dissenting opinions, it is quite possible that the case will be referred to the Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State.

The decision of the Appellate Court had nothing whatever to do with the present Required Services Act, which was written specifically to answer the objections of the Supreme Court to the Mandated Services Act of 1970.

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Cambridge, Mass., which has been doing much work on the voucher concept.

A sad note here. Dr. S. Francis Overlan, Director of Voucher Studies at the Center, died May 1 of cancer. He was an exceptionally talented and devoted young man and educator. May he rest in peace.

CSAANYS has general information for your use, plus bibliographies and some articles on vouchers. We would be happy to also supply a speaker for a faculty or parents' meeting on vouchers, if the group size is 100 or more and adequate public relations and preparations can be accomplished by the principal or principals involved.

The Heritage Foundation, a conservative group funded by the owners of Coors Beer Co., recently held a conference in Washington, D.C., on freedom of choice in education. They brought in Donald Erickson (author of "Super Parent") and E.G. West (economics of education specialist) from Canada, an M.P. from London, and the head of the state boards of education from Arizona and N.H.

Br. Draney attended and was able to represent the Catholic point of view on the First Amendment and freedom of belief, parents as prime educators, etc. The ideas came as a shock to many participants, particularly some from the "Bible belt" in the South.

The conference demonstrated that more and more people are seeing, and

Cassette tapes (non-professional) of the talks by Dr. Vitalo, Br. Delahanty, Sr. Virginia Therese, and Fr. Gordon are available at cost. The printed material on Supervision and Faculty Meetings is also available from this office.

Five Elementary Representatives Elected

Elections are completed in five dioceses. Results are as follows:

Rockville Centre
Sr. Mary Cunningham, CSJ

Brooklyn
Sr. Elizabeth Martin, CSJ

Syracuse
Sr. Maureen Mara, CSJ

Buffalo
Sr. M. Christelle, CSSF

Ogdensburg
Sr. Theresa Geoghan, GNSH

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She attended St. Jerome's and later St. Helena's High School.

In her childhood she developed an interest that is still with her. A woman in the neighborhood who was both elderly and kindly, gathered all the lassies around her and taught them how to crochet and sew. She also taught them to like it.

"Attacking an afghan can be a very therapeutic release of tensions," she indicated recently, "and it does serve to unclutter the mind."

Music is another interest she has maintained from youth, and she can on occasion be heard to plink on a guitar. She assures us that all of these efforts are without benefit of professional training and are for her amusement alone.

Sister Catherine will assume her new responsibilities in late August. We welcome her most enthusiastically to the staff of CSAANYS.

sometimes for different reasons, that education can not be a function of government or a monopoly.