

Statistics & Studies Favor NPS

The 1970's was a decade of change for Catholic Education — declining enrollments, school closings and growing doubts about the future of private education in America. Many educators felt that Catholic families no longer valued (or could afford) a Catholic school education for their children. However, a recent NCEA Data Bank Report indicates that the decline of the '70's is over for private education. "A Statistical Report on U.S. Catholic Schools 1980-81" contains statistical facts on schools, enrollment and faculty from 1970 to the present and predicts a more stable future for our schools during the '80's.

Both private and public education were affected by the declining number of school-age children. Fall 1980 national enrollment was only 84.4% of 1970. Total national elementary and secondary enrollment has declined almost 11% in the last ten years. However, it is foreseen that elementary enrollment will increase in 1985, with secondary enrollments being similarly affected in the 1990's. Further, private schools served a slightly larger percentage (10.9%) of students in 1980 than in 1970 (10.5%). This percentage is expected to increase to 11.2% by 1985.

During the five years from 1975 to 1980, the number of school-age children declined annually on the average of 1.9% on the elementary level and 1.5% on the secondary. In light of these figures, the enrollment in Catholic schools has actually been quite stable since 1975. Catholic school enrollment showed an average annual decline of 2.0% on the elementary level and 1.2% on the secondary level. This bodes well for the continuing significance of private schools in the future.

NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

In 1980-81 there were 81 fewer Catholic schools. This is quite a decrease in school closings when compared to the 509 schools closed in 1971-72. This is due largely to improved school management and the continued support of Catholic schools by parents and students.

Statistics show that almost half of all Catholic schools are within the city limits of a major city. The percentage of rural schools has decreased.

SERVICE TO MINORITIES

With the majority of Catholic schools located in urban areas, it is no wonder that they should be involved in minority education. Since 1970, Black enrollment in Catholic schools has increased from 4.8% to 8.1%; Hispanic, 5.0% to 8.3%. The total Black and Hispanic enrollment of 509,000 students represents about one-sixth of total Catholic school enrollment. The percentage of Catholic students has declined from 95% in 1970 to 91% in 1980. This is due in large part to

Continued in column 3

Congratulations to:

Sr. Mary Ryan, OP, principal of Dominican Commercial HS and former Brooklyn Secondary Representative to the CSAANYS Executive Board, has been elected Superior General of the Amityville Dominicans.

ELECTION REPORT

The election process for Elementary Representatives to the CSAANYS Executive Board from each diocese began in February with the distribution of nomination ballots to members. The four principals who were running for re-election to the Board clearly had the support of their fellow administrators and will continue on the Board for the next two years:

Gerald Cattaro	Brooklyn
S. Marita Regina Bronner	New York
S. Patricia Houlihan	Albany
S. M. Margaret Singer	Syracuse

In the other dioceses, the election process continues. A full report on the Elementary Representatives will appear in the June Newsletter.

The final meeting of the Board for the 1980-81 school year will take place on May 18th in Albany. Newly elected Board members will attend this meeting for an orientation session and to get a feel for the operation of the Board.

Congratulations and thank you to those administrators who agreed to serve on the Board, as well as to those who agreed to be nominated.

LUNCH PROGRAM CUTS

The school lunch program will suffer severe budget cuts proposed by the Reagan Administration. Cutting measures include total elimination of the subsidy for children who pay full price and reduction in the subsidy for children who pay a reduced price by 50¢ per lunch. Loss of meal subsidies will force cafeterias to raise lunch prices. As a result, many students will drop out of the lunch program, resorting to "brown bag lunches", cheap junk food or going without lunch.

Other proposed cuts include lowering the income eligibility for free and reduced price lunches and eliminating the Special Milk Program for schools in the lunch program. One cut aimed directly at the private schools is the elimination of all federal subsidies for private schools charging \$1,500 or more in tuition. While the Administration implies that state and local funds will offset the loss of federal funds, it should be remembered that these funds would aid only the public schools.

The real danger feared by many school food service directors and nutritionists is that with fewer children to be served, costs of the program will be so prohibitive as to force a large number of schools to discontinue the lunch program. Thus, even the "truly needy" children will suffer.

Before final passage of the Budget, amendments will be introduced to restore full funding for the lunch program. Now is the time to contact Senators and Representatives in the House to urge their support for continued funding.

the increased non-Catholic Black enrollment.

Catholic schools will continue to be a significant factor in American education. It is the continuing commitment of educators, parents and students that will provide strength and impetus for growth in the '80's.

QUALITY ED. ATTRACTS STUDENTS

The National Institute of Education (NIE) has released a study of private and public high schools. "The Private High School Today" reports that the middle class is becoming more attracted to private schools, which could influence public policy towards private education.

The study found that private schools are on the average one-third smaller than their public counter-parts, with a student population that is more middle-class, regardless of race.

Based mainly on interviews with high school principals, the study found few differences in private and public school management and organization. Private school principals reported less trouble in their schools and felt that they had more independence and authority in their position. Private school teachers were found to have more of a sense of commitment. The study also reports that three-fourths of private schools are Catholic.

On the question of governmental financial aid to private schools, the NIE study reports that it would not result in an unfair advantage to the private school in attracting students. Rather, such aid would create a healthy competitive atmosphere for all schools. The real test of the ability of a school to attract students, the study concludes, is the quality of the education it offers.

TAX CREDIT MYTHS

As the supporters of tuition tax credit gear up the campaign to secure passage of the legislation, its opponents prepare their opposition. Certain arguments are an inherent part of anti-tax credit rhetoric. What are some of the major objections to tuition tax credit and how do we answer them.

1. Tax credit would benefit the wealthy. Studies such as the NCEA Data Bank Statistics reveal that the majority of nonpublic schools and their students are connected to large cities. Of 3.7 million students in urban private schools, 62.7% are from families with less than \$25,000 income. When narrowed to inner city private schools, 72% of nonpublic school students' families earn less than \$15,000 a year. In light of today's economy, tax credit is a means for parents to continue to choose the type of education they want for their children.

2. Tax Credit actually means federal aid to religious schools. It must be emphasized that this is a tax measure — not a question of educational assistance to a particular school or group of schools. Tax credit would benefit parents and children.

3. Tax credit would open the door to greater regulation of non-public schools by the Federal government. Tuition tax credit legislation contains specific safeguards against excessive intrusion of the Federal government into the affairs of nonpublic schools through such measures as IRS audits.

4. Tax credit would encourage support of racially segregated schools. Again, the legislation prohibits credit being given for tuition paid to schools that discriminate. For a tuition payment to be eligible to be claimed for a tax credit, the school must not discriminate in admissions on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin.

The campaign to win support for tuition tax credit among the N.Y.S. Congressional delegation continues. Letter writing efforts must be sustained. Representatives will also be in their districts during the Easter and Memorial Day recesses. These will be valuable opportunities for personal contacts with local congressmen to ascertain their positions and urge support.

EL SALVADOR: Action Needed

March 24, 1981 marked the first anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador. This event first brought the violence and oppression endured by the people of El Salvador to the consciousness of most Americans. Sadly, the every day experience of terror and violence continues.

The situation in El Salvador is further complicated by the question of increased U.S. military aid to the centrist government in the face of the Reagan Administration's view of El Salvador as a power confrontation with the Soviets.

One hopeful sign for human rights and peace in El Salvador is the growing resistance in Congress to unconditional military involvement by the United States. Senate Bill 728 would prohibit military aid unless the Salvadoran government investigates the murder of U.S. citizens and takes steps to prosecute those guilty of acts of terrorism. S 728 also requires the U.S. government to oppose all arms shipments to El Salvador and to work towards a mediated solution to the conflict. In the House of Representatives, H.R. 1509, the Studds' bill, has been introduced to prohibit arms sales to El Salvador.

The campaign for human rights and justice for the Salvadoran people needs continued support. It is important at this stage to keep the issue of El Salvador before the public. Senators and Representatives must be contacted to urge support for the legislation mentioned above.

COLEMAN/GREELEY STUDY NPS

Educational sociologist Dr. James Coleman has completed a study that concludes that private high schools are providing students with a better education than their public counter-parts. Critics believe that Dr. Coleman's new study could prove to be as effective in support of the tuition tax credit issue as his 1966 study of black students was for integration.

Dr. Coleman's findings are based on a National Center for Education Statistics study of over 58,000 students in both public and private high schools.

In answer to the charge that tuition tax credit would foster greater racial segregation in the schools, Dr. Coleman stated that a tax credit would in fact decrease segregation by attracting more minority students to private schools.

Father Andrew Greeley's study concludes that minority students from a comparable background learn more in Catholic high schools than in public high schools. Father Greeley states that Catholic schools provide minority students with a better education because the original purpose of these schools was to educate the children of early 20th Century immigrants who were regarded as minorities in the country at that time.

NEWS BRIEFS

MISUSE OF PUBLIC MONEY

The SED and the attorney general have been asked to investigate the legality of a memo urging opposition to tuition tax credit which was sent out to a local board of education and parents of students in one school in the area by the superintendent of the North Colonie Central School District.

The memo contained misleading information about tuition tax credit as well as an implication that racist schools would also benefit from the measure. What is most disturbing is the use of public tax money to lobby against legislation which would help relieve the double tax burden of nonpublic school parents.

CSAANYS urges administrators and parents to be alert for similar situations in their districts which should be reported to the diocesan school office, local tuition tax credit committee and CSAANYS.

SUMMER SCHOOL CALENDAR

The SED Bureau of Secondary School Supervision has recommended a 1981 summer school calendar calling for the 30 days of instruction to begin July 6 and end on August 14, with Regent exams on August 18. July 1 and 2 may be used for registration or instruction. However, state aid will not be available before July 1.

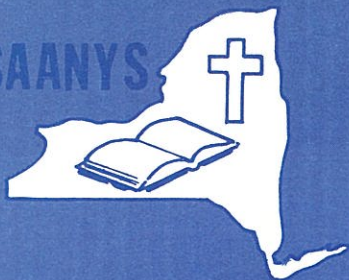
The handbook for administrators of summer school programs and the application for approval of summer programs are being updated. Schools will be contacted once this is completed.

APPOINTMENTS

— Sr. Barbara Lenniger, principal of St. Augustine's School, New City, has been appointed to a three-year term on Commissioner Ambach's Nonpublic School Advisory Committee. Joan Arnold, Assistant Commissioner for Nonpublic Schools, had requested CSAANYS to submit the names of possible representatives.

— CSAANYS Associate Director, Sr. Catherine O'Leary, OP, will serve on the selection committee for the NYS Teacher of the Year.

CSAANYS



NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE

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PRIORITIES: GRANTS, CREDITS, AID

At its first meeting for 1981-82, CSAANYS's Executive Board set goals and legislative priorities for the Association in the year ahead. Specific action steps and projects were pinpointed as concrete means for CSAANYS to achieve these goals.

Br. Flood reported on the annual legislative meeting of representatives from CSAANYS, the Superintendents Council and Parents Federation. He reviewed the current status of bills of concern to the three groups and the new bills which would be introduced in the next session. The Board voted to adopt the legislative priorities for 1981-82 that were developed in conjunction with the Superintendents and Parents organizations.

1981-82 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TRANSPORTATION

- Transportation to nonpublic schools on days the public schools are not in session.
- Remove the present exemption which allows city districts to limit transportation to within the city limits.
- Extend Chapter 990 of the Laws of 1981 which provides transportation for handicapped children attending nonpublic schools beyond its one year limit.

TEXTBOOKS

- Increase textbook aid to \$30-\$40 per pupil.

HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES

- Require the school boards of New York City, Rochester and Buffalo to provide health services to students.
- Reimbursement under Mandated Services for immunization reporting and recording.

A major area of concern to nonpublic schools during the coming year will be the conversion of Federal education aid to Block Grants. After a detailed report by Associate Director S. Catherine O'Leary, the Board approved two motions for action: 1) the Executive Director should contact Asst. Commissioner for Nonpublic Schools Joan Arnold to urge the SED to hold regional meetings to educate all school administrators on Block Grants; 2) the Executive Director should recommend to Commissioner Ambach that Block Grant funds be distributed to the school district in which the nonpublic school is located, rather than the district of the pupil's residence.

Efforts to secure passage of Tuition Tax Credit will remain a major priority. CSAANYS will continue to communicate information to principals, stressing a letter writing campaign by parents and including the present position of NYS Congressmen

on TTC. The Board approved motions that CSAANYS contact NYS Senators and Congressmen, the President and Finance Committees to urge action on TTC and that letters be sent to such organizations as ASCD, NAESP and NASSP to protest the stand they have taken against TTC.

The final schedule for the 1982 CSAANYS Workshops was approved by the Board. 1982 will be the 10th anniversary of the founding of CSAANYS, and the Board will consider holding a state-wide convocation in 1983 to mark the event.

WORKSHOP DATES

Downstate: March 31, 1982
Central/Northern: April 21, 1982
Western: April 28, 1982

REGENTS HEAR N.P.S. TESTIMONIES

Br. Bernard G. Flood, Executive Director of CSAANYS, spoke before the NYS Board of Regents at their annual Legislative Hearing on Sept. 11th. Brother urged the Regents to support several pieces of legislation of benefit to nonpublic school students.

The elimination of the exemption for the cities of New York, Rochester and Buffalo to provide health services was strongly advocated. The E.D. pointed out that the lack of such services, especially in NYC, was closely related to the burden placed upon the nonpublic school administrators by the immunization verification requirements. He reported on the attempt by CSAANYS to have the costs of compliance with this legal requirement included under Mandated Services Aid and requested the Regents to support bills S 5313 and A 7375 which would allow our schools to be reimbursed for the actual cost incurred.

Brother Flood also brought to the attention of the Regents the need for adjustments in the parameters established for the various state testing programs under Mandated Services Aid.

In the area of textbooks, the Regents were again asked to support an increase in the \$15 per student allotment. On the topic of transportation, Br. Flood mentioned two areas of concern: the refusal of transportation on days when nonpublic schools are in session, but the public schools are not; and the present exemption of city school districts to transport students beyond the city limits.

CSAANYS's testimony was supported by presentations from the Parents' Federation and the Superintendents' Council. Marie Grabowski of the Federation's Executive Committee, called upon the Regents as educational leaders to aid in building a greater partnership between public and nonpublic schools. Mrs. Grabowski urged the Regents to support an increase in textbook aid and the removal of the exemption for city districts to transport students outside city

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BLOCK GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

While the Education Consolidation and Improvement Act (ECIA) of 1981 makes massive changes in federal education aid, including the creation of Block Grants, the possibility for nonpublic school students to derive benefits must not be overlooked. Particularly under Chapter II, there is the possibility of increased participation in federal programs.

Both the state and local educational agencies must show how they will use the funds for programs for nonpublic school students. The state retains 20% of the grant funds, with the remaining 80% distributed to the local districts based on their public and nonpublic school enrollments.

The regulations for nonpublic school participation are contained in Section 586 of Chapter II. Both state and local education agencies are required to consult with nonpublic school representatives before planning and implementing programs. The law also stipulates that expenditures for programs for nonpublic school students must be equal (proportionate to the number of students to be served) to expenditures for public school programs.

The ECIA also calls for each state governor to appoint an Advisory Council to assure continued consultation with educational interests and the general public. CSAANYS has submitted nominees for nonpublic school representatives on the NYS Advisory Council.

It is vital that nonpublic school administrators become aware NOW of the benefits their students are legally entitled

NYS Textbook Law

The New York State Textbook Law (NYSTL) is a mandate to supply texts to both public and nonpublic school students in an equitable manner.

However, CSAANYS has found that the dollar factor for reimbursement is still poorly understood by too many people. Some public school superintendents (or their staffs) still try to apply the dollar factor in an absolute way. On the other hand, some of those involved with nonpublic schools (administrators, teachers, parents) work under the mistaken assumption that there is no dollar limit to the amount of textbooks that can be ordered.

When ordering textbooks or working to resolve a conflict with a district, administrators should be mindful of the following facts about NYSTL:

- There is no basis in law for private or parochial school allocations.
- A yearly apportionment of \$15 per resident student is made to each local district to establish a basic fund on which the district can build its textbook budget.
- The \$15 is NOT a system for distributing either the money or the books.
- It is not acceptable for a district to assign each pupil \$15 or to keep separate accounts for public and nonpublic students.
- Equitable distribution is to be made from the total amount of money available for textbooks.
- All K-12 pupils residing in the district are eligible for loan of textbooks on an equitable basis, based upon their textbook needs and total funds available.

During the past few weeks, CSAANYS has been alerted to several continuing conflicts over textbooks. School administrators are urged not to delay in seeking support from their local diocesan offices or CSAANYS when it appears that a district is misinterpreting the NYSTL.

For more detailed information on the NYSTL and its application to nonpublic school students, refer to CSAANYS's Research Report #16.

Meet Your CSAANYS Rep.

Sr. Barbara Bowman, SSJ, has been principal at St. John the Evangelist School in Rochester for five years. She has served on the Elementary Education Committee for the Sisters of St. Joseph and is currently President of the Rochester Elementary Association.

Sr. Barbara has a B.A. and a M.S. in Education from Nazareth College. Her personal interests include ballet, drama and liturgical dance. Sr. Barbara feels that her term on the Executive Board will be "... a broadening experience, working at the statewide level. Hopefully, I will be able to bring and share some of my experiences as well as take back valuable information and insights from the Board."



Sr. Barbara



Sr. Carol

Sr. Carol Cimino, SSJ, assistant principal at Nazareth Academy High School in Rochester, has a B.A. from Nazareth College and a M.S. in Administration and Supervision from the University of Rochester. She has had experience in school administration at both the elementary and secondary levels.

Sr. Carol is involved with high school ski clubs and teaches in a local adult education program. Sister says that serving on the CSAANYS Board fulfills her desire "to make a commitment of time to Catholic education on the state level. The many "burning issues" involving Catholic schools are of interest to me and I would like to know that, at least, my commitment made a difference."

Sr. Joyce Marie, CSSF, is principal of St. Mary's School, Canton, where she also serves on the Parish Council and School Board. She represents the Felician Sisters in the Sisters Council of the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Sr. Joyce Marie has teaching experience in all the elementary grades and in three dioceses of the State. Sister's willingness to serve on the Board stems from her being "in agreement with the Association's concerns, for example, in promoting understanding of new legislation ... and providing administrators with up-to-date information and serving as a resource facility on legal questions, federally funded programs and school managerial problems." (A picture for Sr. Joyce was not available for printing)

RENEWAL ALERT

September is the time for principals to renew their CSAANYS membership.

THINK — HAVE YOU??

to and local plans for participation in Block Grants. After reading the informational report CSAANYS mailed to its members in October, call your district superintendent for details on 1982-83 programs. As more information becomes available, CSAANYS will update its members.

NEWSBRIEFS

Congratulations to Joseph McTigue, former President of the CSAANYS Executive Board, who has joined the NYS Catholic Conference as Executive Secretary to the NYS Council of Catholic Superintendents and NYS Council of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education. We look forward to working with him once again.

TUITION TAX CREDIT

November '81 has been designated by Citizens for Education Freedom (CEF) as NATIONAL TUITION TAX CREDIT MONTH. A massive campaign is planned to flood the President and Congress with letters, calls and telegrams during November to demonstrate the strength of grass roots support for Tuition Tax Credit. Principals are urged to encourage parents and teachers to write to the President and their representatives in Washington on this very important issue during November.

Regents Hear N.P.S. Testimonies (continued)

limits. In closing, she asked the Regents to remain open to the concepts of Tuition Tax Credit and vouchers.

Fr. James O'Brien, Syracuse Superintendent of Schools and President of the Superintendents' Council, voiced to the Regents new concerns over the future of educational programs for the handicapped in nonpublic, religiously-affiliated schools. The basis for concern are new interpretations of the law which view funding of programs in such schools to "mainstream" handicapped pupils as "aid" to religious schools — which is unconstitutional. Fr. O'Brien urged the Regents to develop legislation which would allow placement of handicapped students in nonpublic schools where such a school would properly be the least restrictive environment.