

NYS CATHOLIC CONFERENCE 2003

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Each year, the NYS Catholic Conference issues a legislative agenda outlining specific objectives in the public policy arena. This education agenda, based on a consistent set of principles drawn from Gospel values and Catholic social teaching, is presented here.

EDUCATION – All children, by virtue of their dignity as human beings, have an inalienable right to a quality education. Parents have the right to choose how that education is provided. Failure to invest adequately in our children's education may hinder their lives as adults, forcing them into a life of poverty. Therefore, the Conference supports:

- Funding, including vouchers, to enable parents to choose their child's school;
- Full reimbursement for Academic Intervention Services and all other state mandates;
- Eligibility for computer hardware aid and increased funding for learning technology grants in all schools;
- School transportation reform;
- Teacher recruitment and retention initiatives;
- Sufficient resources for teacher training programs;
- An education investment tax credit to stimulate private donations to all schools;
- Increased aid for textbooks, library materials and computer software;
- Promotion of sexual abstinence education programs.

GUIDANCE ISSUED ON MILITARY RECRUITERS

At long last, the U.S. Departments of Education and Defense have issued guidance on access to high school students and information by military recruiters. "We have received a number of questions about whether private schools are subject to the military recruiter requirements if the schools have students or teachers who receive services under ESEA, but the schools themselves do not receive funds. Private secondary schools that do not receive funds under the ESEA are not subject to these military recruiter requirements. Private secondary schools whose students or teachers receive services under ESEA programs, but the schools do not receive any ESEA funds, are not considered to be recipients of funds under the ESEA and are not subject to the military recruiter requirements."

If you need further clarification, please contact Maureen Dowling – Maureen.dowling@ed.gov or Jack Klenk – jack.klenk@ed.gov at the Office of Nonpublic Education, or at 202-401-1365

Please pray for the soul of Sister Naomi Varrone, OP, principal of St. Aloysius in Ridgewood since 1988.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE - THE RIGHT THING

St. John Fisher College in Rochester is launching a new program aimed at helping area Catholic high school students to meet the costs of college tuition. According to the November 23rd Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, the college will provide \$5,000 per year for four years to as many as one hundred Catholic high school graduates who attend Fisher.

According to Fisher president Katherine Keough, "The goal here is to make Catholic education affordable not just at Fisher, but at our Catholic high schools." Graduates of local Catholic high schools who show "leadership potential, have a cumulative B-plus or higher grade point average, and who plan to attend Fisher directly after graduation" will find the program open to them.

We at CSAANYS applaud this program, and wish that other colleges with a Catholic history would do the same. Many parents, citing the anticipated high costs of college, cannot pay for Catholic secondary education. We think that this effort on the part of St. John Fisher College is a good step in helping parents to do both. With the obligation of proving their Catholicity by meeting the requirements of *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Fisher's program stands out with a double whammy: encourage Catholic secondary education, and then encourage Catholic post-secondary education. Now if we could only get some other so-called Catholic colleges to do the same...

GET THIS INTO YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

The Catholic School Administrators' Program at Manhattan College, the Institute in Catholic Identity, and CSAANYS will present "CALLED TO BE AUTHENTIC: KEEPING THE PROMISE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION" at Manhattan College JUNE 23-27, 2003 FROM 9:00AM TO 3:30PM.

For a school to be authentically Catholic, it is important that there be a commonly held acceptance of clearly identified elements, communication of those elements to internal and external stakeholders, and congruence between what is proclaimed and what is performed. This sixth annual institute will:

- Identify the elements of the authentically Catholic school;
- Make visible the components that represent those elements;
- Make the mission happen;
- Market the mission;
- Live the school's philosophy day to day.

During the week, invited speakers will explore these and other topics with participants, and offer the opportunity to interact so that shared wisdom is evoked.

Participants may take this week-long institute for graduate credit, hours toward certification, or just for their own personal and professional enrichment. The location of Manhattan College, so convenient to all that New York City has to offer, makes the institute even more inviting.

Plan to spend an enriching, rewarding, and informative week with your peers in Catholic education. To see more on the institute, log on to: <http://www.manhattan.edu/~rkushner/ICI/2003>.