

063.0018

TO: THE MARQUETTE DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION  
FROM: THE THREE CATHOLIC BOARDS OF EDUCATION IN SAULT STE. MARIE  
SUBJECT: A REQUEST TO CLOSE ALL THREE OF OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS EITHER ON  
DECEMBER 18, 1970 OR ON JANUARY 22, 1971

OUR THINKING AND OUR INTENTIONS

Proposal C has become the law of Michigan. We have studied both the short range and the long range effect of this unbelievable amendment. Our first concern is to provide our own children with the best possible Catholic education now and in the future. We are also conscious that other states are watching Michigan closely, and whatever we do will have an effect on both our friends and our enemies across the entire land.

The easy solution for us would be to carry on until we collapse, one by one, leaving only the pastors and an assistant or two to pick up the pieces. We have decided it would be better for us and for the entire Church to do the more difficult thing, namely, to close all three schools and to use our present personnel to set up good alternate programs.

\* Why now? We have a healthy staff at hand, willing to use the released time law to the full, willing to train several lay people, to conduct various types of religious education programs at all levels, to experiment with nightly enrichment programs. Personnel already on exceptionally good terms with almost all of the students presently in our schools and with many of the students in the public schools. All of our sisters are willing to give their best efforts for the remainder of the school year, and two have practically committed themselves for the following year, with more being interested. Why now? Because we just can't hack it, on any level, in Sault Ste. Marie, without state aid. Let us look at the facts:

Factual Data

The citizens of the Sault have expressed a willingness to share in the cost of educating our children provided they attend the public schools, and this includes many of our Catholics: PROPOSAL C VOTE

| <u>Precinct</u> | <u>Number Voting NO</u> | <u>Number Voting YES</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 (SM)          | 95                      | 147                      |
| 2 (SM)          | 226                     | 206                      |
| 3 (SM)          | 152                     | 245                      |
| 4 (SJ)          | 244                     | 292                      |
| 5 (SJ)          | 300                     | 440                      |
| 6 (SM-SJ)       | 197                     | 326                      |
| 7 (SJ)          | 124                     | 239                      |
| 8 (N)           | 192                     | 294                      |
| 9 (IJ-SM)       | 122                     | 163                      |
| 10 (?)          | 85                      | 99                       |
| 11 (?)          | 73                      | 74                       |
| TOTAL           | 1,810                   | 2,525                    |

In all of Chippewa County, some more of which is in this school district that is not reflected in the city vote, we were beaten three to one. In spite of the excellence of our schools and the intent of the amendment to put us out of business.

| Parish           | No. of Families 1969 | 1970 | Envelope Users 1969 | 1970 |
|------------------|----------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| St. Mary         | 730                  | 505  | 547                 | 450  |
| St. Joseph       | 498                  | 478  | 403                 | 401  |
| Nativity         | 187                  | 140  | 125                 | 93   |
| St. Isaac Jogues | 55                   | 80   | 42                  | 41   |
| Holy Family      | 63                   | 66   | 46                  | 45   |
| TOTAL            | 1533                 | 1269 | 1163                | 1030 |

Catholic School Enrollment

|              | 1968 - 1969 | 1970-1971 |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|
| St. Mary's   | 302         | 229       |
| St. Joseph's | 303         | 256       |
| Loretto      | 253         | 267       |
|              | 858         | 752       |

| Current Enrollment | Grades 1 | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| St. Mary's         | 24       | 25 | 28 | 31 | 34 | 21 | 36 | 30 |    |    |    |    |
| St. Joseph's       | 23       | 27 | 34 | 40 | 27 | 31 | 39 | 35 |    |    |    |    |
| Loretto            |          |    |    |    |    |    |    |    | 63 | 66 | 82 | 56 |

| Children in Public Schools | Grades 1 | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|----------------------------|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| St. Mary's                 | 18       | 20 | 20 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 12 | 32 | 48 | 42 | 40 | 38 |
| St. Joseph's               | 21       | 38 | 36 | 27 | 39 | 31 | 25 | 26 | 41 | 38 | 42 | 37 |
| Nativity                   | 20       | 19 | 15 | 25 | 19 | 12 | 16 | 20 | 18 | 15 | 14 | 12 |
| St. Isaac Jogues           | 9        | 11 | 8  | 12 | 11 | 10 | 7  | 9  | 6  | 5  | 7  | 5  |
| Holy Family                | 5        | 4  | 8  | 6  | 7  | 5  | 6  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 5  | 8  |

Population Trends According to Infant Baptisms

| Parish      | 1962 | 1963 | 1964 | 1965 | 1966 | 1967 | 1968 | 1969 | 1970 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| St. Mary    | 102  | 123  | 86   | 61   | 69   | 58   | 31   | 29   | 24   |
| St. Joseph  | 100  | 93   | 81   | 79   | 57   | 51   | 34   | 39   | 38   |
| Nativity    | 30   | 20   | 23   | 17   | 17   | 18   | 10   | 9    | 7    |
| St. Isaac   | ?    | 38   | 40   | 26   | 18   | 15   | 8    | 10   | 8    |
| Holy Family | ?    | ?    | ?    | ?    | 5    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 2    |
| TOTALS      | 232  | 274  | 233  | 183  | 166  | 145  | 86   | 89   | 79   |

Some observations on our population

- \*In two years, 133 envelope users have either died or moved away...
- \*In two years, we have 106 fewer children in our three schools...
- \*The number of children in our parishes is declining proportionately...
- \*Our present first graders were born in the bumper crop year of 1964, so what will happen to our numbers in each succeeding year?
- \*This community has a public junior high, and without Loretto we would lose many children from our grade schools after the 6th grade...
- \*The number of children in our schools decreases each year, but the cost of operating them goes up each year. Without state aid, to continue any of our schools just doesn't make sense. Now we will look at our financial condition:

The Financial Condition of our parishes

|                                                          | <u>St. Mary</u> | <u>St. Joseph</u> | <u>Nativity</u> | <u>St. Isaac</u> | <u>Holy Family</u> |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Total Parish Income 1969-70<br>(excluding diocesan coll) | 82,966.02       | 79,881.21         | 20,974.00       | 9,328.06         | 11,439.27          |
| Total Spent on Cath. Educ.<br>(from parish funds)        | 64,730.59       | 50,799.50         | 6,857.10        | 3,970.20         | 2,403.69           |
| Total spent on all other<br>parish expenses              | 34,487.73       | 41,202.45         | 14,116.90       | 4,655.80         | 9,237.35           |
| Total Borrowed to meet<br>current expenses               | 11,000.00       | 11,400.00         | 2,500.00        | none             | none               |
| Total Parish Indebtedness                                | 21,760.00       | 150,000.00        | 1,500.00        | none             | 1,800.00           |

\*Observations This was the condition of our parishes as they began the current year. The two larger parishes have grade schools. We will just look at the parish that is better off financially, namely, St. Joseph's:

St. Joseph School Budget 1970-1971

Anticipated income:

|                  |            |             |
|------------------|------------|-------------|
| Tuition and fees | \$4,000.00 |             |
| Book Rental      | 4,000.00   |             |
| Parochiad        | 1,500.00   | \$ 9,500.00 |

Expenses:

|                                       |           |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Salaries, Sisters                     | 16,250.00 |           |
| Salaries, Lay                         | 11,150.00 | 27,400.00 |
| Textbooks and instructional materials | 4,000.00  | 4,000.00  |
| Operation and Maintenance             |           |           |
| Janitor salary                        | 4,740.00  |           |
| Cook                                  | 600.00    |           |
| Fuel                                  | 1,800.00  |           |
| Utilities                             | 1,500.00  |           |
| Supplies                              | 300.00    |           |
| Repairs                               | 300.00    |           |
| Insurance                             | 350.00    |           |
| Fixed: pension, hosp., soc. sec.      | 2,000.00  |           |
| Convent: fuel, utilities, etc.        | 1,500.00  | 13,090.00 |

Capital Expenses:

|                                   |          |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Interest on convent and gym debt  | 2,000.00 |          |
| Principal on convent and gym debt | 1,500.00 | 3,500.00 |

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| TOTAL EXPENSES            | 47,990.00 |
| less income (above)       | 9,500.00  |
| TO COME FROM PARISH FUNDS | 38,490.00 |

\*Observations A school budget cannot be considered apart from the parish budget, which will be given on the next page.

# St. Joseph Church-Parish Budget-1970-1971

## ANTICIPATED INCOME:

|                                            |             |             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Adults (current expenses, debt retirement) | \$55,000.00 |             |
| Seat Collection                            | 4,000.00    |             |
| Loose Change Collection                    | 3,500.00    |             |
| Children                                   | 2,000.00    | \$64,500.00 |
| Fuel                                       | 2,500.00    |             |
| Motive Lights                              | 600.00      |             |
| Catholic Literature                        | 150.00      |             |
| School Support (envelopes and donations)   | 4,000.00    |             |
| Guild Activities and Thrift Shoppe         | 5,000.00    | 13,250.00   |
| TOTAL                                      |             | 77,750.00   |

## EXPENSES:

|                                                                 |           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Salaries: Pastor                                                | 2,400.00  |           |
| Assistant                                                       | 1,500.00  |           |
| Housekeeper                                                     | 1,200.00  |           |
| Secretary                                                       | 1,200.00  | 6,100.00  |
| Church Supplies: bulletins, envelopes, missalettes, hosts, etc. | 2,000.00  |           |
| Office Supplies                                                 | 350.00    |           |
| Board Allowance                                                 | 3,000.00  |           |
| Car Allowance                                                   | 1,800.00  |           |
| Utilities and Fuel                                              | 2,000.00  |           |
| Catholic Literature and Pamphlets                               | 150.00    |           |
| Insurance, Hospitalization                                      | 1,200.00  |           |
| Maintenance                                                     | 1,000.00  |           |
| New Furniture                                                   | 200.00    |           |
| Pension, Lay and Priests                                        | 700.00    |           |
| Choir, Organists                                                | 400.00    | 19,100.00 |
| Capital:                                                        |           |           |
| Interest                                                        | 6,900.00  |           |
| Principal Payment                                               | 3,000.00  | 9,900.00  |
|                                                                 |           | 35,100.00 |
| Loretto High School Assessment and Tuition                      | 20,000.00 |           |
| St. Joseph's School from Parish Funds                           | 38,490.00 | 58,490.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES                                                  |           | 93,590.00 |
| Anticipated Income                                              |           | 77,750.00 |
| DEFICIT                                                         |           | 15,840.00 |

\* St. Mary's Parish started the year with a larger deficit than St. Joseph's.  
 St. Mary's School has a larger budget than St. Joseph's.  
 St. Mary's Parish pays a larger assessment to Loretto than St. Joseph's.  
 St. Mary's income is only a couple of thousand dollars more than St. Joseph's.

## CAPITAL OUTLAY INDEBTEDNESS OF LORETTO HIGH SCHOOL

\$ 331,000.00 to B.C. Ziegler Company  
 187,589.25 to The Diocese of Marquette (on which we have paid no interest as yet)  
 \$ 518,589.25 is the present total owed, for which the five parishes involved in this report are responsible.

Loretto Budget, 1970-71

|                     |            |
|---------------------|------------|
| Administration..... | 5,960.00   |
| Instruction.....    | 63,695.00  |
| Operation.....      | 20,300.00  |
| Maintenance.....    | 1,400.00   |
| Fixed Charges.....  | 6,505.00   |
| SUB TOTAL           | 97,860.00  |
| Debt Service.....   | 35,686.25  |
| TOTAL               | 133,546.25 |

\*Observations

Here we skip the clearing accounts which brings our operation over \$150,000.00— But the furnace needed repair which cost an unexpected \$1,000.00—And a sister was delayed in coming for another \$1,000.00— and we had to hire a para-professional for the library—etc... yes, coal also went up 4.00 per ton!

Parish assessments for operating Loretto 1970-71

|              |                    |               |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------|
| St. Mary's   | \$21,750.00        | 43.5%         |
| St. Joseph's | 17,650.00          | 35.3%         |
| Nativity     | 5,500.00           | 11.0%         |
| St. Isaac's  | 2,350.00           | 4.7%          |
| Holy Family  | 2,750.00           | 5.5%          |
|              | <u>\$50,000.00</u> | <u>100.0%</u> |

Plus whatever deficits we incur because of unforeseen events which will cost us more than we have budgeted. The parishes also pick up the tuition of those unable to pay. Our students earned the \$768 we needed for our share of financing the unsuccessful proposal C campaign.

Loretto's budgets---1960-1971

|                  |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1960: 32,538.35  | 1961: 42,129.77  | 1962: 38,445.05  | 1963: 69,105.38  |
| 1964: 43,799.29  | 1965: 43,095.23  | 1966: 92,240.19  | 1967: 103,109.20 |
| 1968: 116,392.18 | 1969: 119,226.17 | 1970: 131,792.15 | 1971: 133,546.25 |

\*In ten years, the cost has gone up over \$100,000 a year!  
Enrollment in 1960 was 269—in 1971 it is 267.

Loretto Income, 1970-71

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Tuition.....      | \$30,000          |
| Assessments.....  | 50,000            |
| Gifts, Projects.. | 8,000             |
|                   | <u>88,000</u>     |
| State Aid         | 8,000             |
|                   | <u>96,000</u>     |
| Loans             | 37,546.25         |
| TOTAL             | <u>133,546.25</u> |

\*Observations

State Aid should have brought us 16,000...  
Now it won't even bring us half of that!

Even with state aid, our budget was fiscally irresponsible. However, there was hope then that gradual increases in state aid would eventually make Catholic secondary education possible financially in Sault Ste. Marie. To continue now would be ridiculous.

CONCLUSIONS: For the sake of Catholic education in other states, and to enable us to set up a responsible alternate program here with the personnel available, WE REQUEST THE CONCURRENCE OF THE DIOCESAN BOARD AND OF THE BISHOP IN OUR DECISION TO CLOSE ALL THREE OF OUR SCHOOLS EITHER ON DECEMBER 16, 1970 OR ON JANUARY 22, 1971. We have problems with the students earning necessary credit on shared time at Sault High. We face a debt of over half a million dollars on the Loretto property regardless of our decision, but there is still hope that it can be sold for a public junior high school. Until this is accomplished, and it might mean several attempts at the polls, we can use it for released time and other religious activities. Closing now will lose us some tuition money but we will also save some. Contracted people will have to be compensated. We want to make the more difficult choice...because of our enrollment forecasts and our financial condition, we think the wiser one...and we feel we are acting in the best interests of the Church.

Fr. Nyman

Students affected by auxiliary services

|                |                           |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| SPEECH THERAPY | 11 at St. Joseph's School |
|                | 20 at St. Mary's School   |
|                | <u>31</u>                 |

Loretto Students affected by shared time

|                    |            |          |           |                  |
|--------------------|------------|----------|-----------|------------------|
| GRAPHIC ARTS       | 4          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| INDUSTRIAL DRAWING | 5          | of which | 2         | need the credit  |
| ELECTRONICS        | 4          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| GENERAL WELDING    | 2          | of which | 2         | need the credit  |
| CLERICAL TRAINING  | 1          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| PSYCHOLOGY         | 15         | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| GEOMETRY           | 1          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| CHILD CARE & DEV.  | 1          | of which | 0         | needs the credit |
| SOCIOLOGY          | 1          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| AUTO MECHANICS     | 10         | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| DATA PROCESSING    | 3          | of which | 2         | need the credit  |
| AUTO MECHANICS II  | 5          | of which | 4         | need the credit  |
| HUMANITIES         | 1          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| ELEM. DRAWING      | 5          | of which | 0         | need the credit  |
| MACHINE SHOP       | 4          | of which | 1         | needs the credit |
| METALS             | 8          | of which | 0         | need the credit  |
| WELDING            | 7          | of which | 0         | need the credit  |
| WOODSHOP           | 12         | of which | 0         | need the credit  |
| SWIMMING           | 15         | of which | 0         | need the credit  |
| DRIVER TRAINING    | 3          | of which | 0         | need the credit  |
|                    | <u>140</u> |          | <u>19</u> |                  |

But sometimes these skills are very important. . .

Our Sisters *Loretto and Dominicans*

Would you remain here, if our school should close, and help us in a released time program? YES 18 NO 2 For the remainder of the school year? YES 18 NO 2 For the following school year? YES 6 NO 9 UNDECIDED 5. Would you prefer to transfer to one of the stronger schools in the diocese 3 or state-- 0 and teach your usual grade or subject? YES 3 NO 16. Would you consider switching your field, i.e., going into full time religious education? YES 10 NO 6 ? 2

We also asked the sisters for their ideas about alternate programs, what they would really like to do, and what they think we should do in Sault Ste. Marie.

Our sisters' skills and interests run right from pre-primary through K-12 and adult education including visiting the elderly. One or two would even consider teaching at the public schools and using her salary to help pay for a good program.

Almost all of them think we should close our schools, given our financial and population condition, although most hate to see them go. The children must be our first concern.

We will keep their comments and suggestions. It is my judgement that we have the talent and dedication necessary to set up a good program.