

Evolution of the Sault Ste. Marie Area Total Religious Education Program

Nov. 3 - All hope for aid to non-public schools ends with the defeat of Proposal C.

1970

Nov. - Dec. - Board meetings for various Catholic Schools - deciding what to do for the future.

Parent sessions - home and school - familiarizing them with the immensity of the situation.

Dec. 4 - Letter from Bishop Charles Salatka announcing publicly the closing of Loretto Catholic Central High School at the end of Jan., actually the end of the first semester.

Dec. 18 - Announcement by the Loretto Board of Education of study groups being formed to study future -

- 1 - Study for consolidation of schools - chairman-Tom Krell-St. Mary's.
- 2 - Study for future total area religious education programs - Chairman-Sister Mary Gabriel-IBVM.

Dec. 19 - First total area religious education planning meeting held at Loretto.

Jan. 6 - Diocesan meetings - criteria for remaining open proposed.

Jan. 12 - Reports from both study groups presented to Loretto Board at Loretto. Budgets were also presented. No vote sent to Diocese for decision. 6 sisters indicate desire to remain and work in programs.

Jan. 14 - Initial proposals presented to Marquette Diocesan Board

- 1 - Consolidated Schools Proposal - by Tom Krell-Chairman.
- 2 - Total Area Religious Education Proposal - by Sr. Mary Gabriel-Chairman

Jan. 17 - Consolidated School proposal defeated in Marquette. Future to total Religious Education Programs given mandate for the future.

Jan. 17 - Area planning session held at Loretto - Survey plan initiated.

Feb. 25 - All parish priest meeting at St. Mary's - full support pledged. Also use of Loretto Convent.

Feb. 26 - Official letter from Bishop Charles Salatka announcing the failure of consolidated school proposal - Future emphasized.

1971

March-April-Weekly Sessions - Area pastors and priests, and Sr. Gabriel planning for the future of these programs, also the scope. Total approval given by area pastors. Support pledged.

April - Survey of students currently enrolled Public Schools initiated.

April 9 - Initial meeting with Robert Beecroft, Director of Personnell, and Robert Burt, principal of Lincoln, and Sister Gabriel to discuss the possibility of using released time in a different way - e.g. Each school to have a specific day and time, no longer all schools on one day - this would not serve the needs of the numerous students who would now be enrolled in released time classes.

April 28 - Meeting at Junior High with the various principals of 11 area schools, also with Robert Beecroft and Mrs. Ball.

May 9 - Religious Education Sunday in all area parishes. Priests spent homily time giving a brief explanation of the future plans for religious education and asked all parishioners to fill in a survey after the homily. Tremendous response from parishes. Volunteers of planning group also tried to contact non-church going members to answer the survey. Little response because of limited volunteers and time.

May 20 - First meeting with Ministerial Association members to discuss of released time proposal for the future.

May 15 - Progress report to Marquette Diocesan Board.

May 27 - Second Ministerial Association and priest meeting at Loretto Convent. Ministers indicated that they would like to operate on the same schedule as we were, but felt that their programs were being dropped in many parishes, and they couldn't compete with us because of lack of available personnell.

June 14 - Proposal for released time presented to Public School Area Board.

II Beginnings :

Sept. 8, 1971 - 1:30: Father Lawrence Gauthier, Superintendent of Education, Sister Andrea Marie, Diocesan Personnel Board, CSJ., Sister Helen Louise, CSJ., Diocesan assistant Religious Education Director, and the area team members met to settle and go over contracts and areas of concentration.

Sept. 8, 7:30 P.M. Father L. Gauthier, Sister Andrea, Sister Helen Louise, our area team members, local pastors and Area Parish Board representatives met to discuss the following:

- 1) The relationship between the board and the director.
- 2) The matter of setting up a constitution
- 3) The question of the advisability of having representatives from the parish councils on the Area Board.
- 4) Election procedures for the Area Board
- 5) A proposed form for a budget that was written up by Father Gauthier and the diocesan office.
- 6) tentative meeting dates.

Sept. 16 - Negaunee UP directors meeting.

Sept. 20 - Constitution committee meeting

Sept. 30 - Presentation of the Constitution to the new local Board.

Oct. 4 - Formal Beginning Week of Program.

Oct. 11 - High School beginning.

October 11 - Budget committee meeting

Oct. 13 - Area Board meeting -

- Agenda -
- 1 - Budget
 - 2 - Hiring of janitors-and busdrivers
 - 3 - Revisions of constitution
 - 4 - Convent repairs

Oct. 19 - Negaunee U.P. directors meeting

Oct. 27-30 - Sister Gabriel attended the National Congress of Religious Education in Miami Beach, Florida. 8000 participants from every state in the union fully demonstrated that the Spirit is alive in the Church today as never before. The National Office of Religious Education is considering changing the understanding of C.C.D. (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) to - Continuing Christian Development In A Changing World.

Nov. 2- An all faculty and board Liturgy at St. Joseph Church was celebrated by Fr. Norbert Landreville. Dinner for all followed at St. Mary's. A flu bug kept some away, but the many who attended were pleased and encouraged to see so many others involved in our new programs.

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