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Mine

Progress Report on Total Religious Education and Pastoral Service Programs
Sault Ste. Marie, May 15, 1971

Marquette.

I. Initial Steps

January 12th

I'm 2 persons at present ^{Religion} (teacher + coordinator)1. Taking on the responsibility of being coordinator of religious education

Closing schools + looking to future.

2. Recruiting teachers to work in the program-religious

a. Eight Sisters are ready to work in the Program

Sister Rita Jacques - pre-school and grade 1

Sister Mary Alice - special education and grade 2

Sister Anita - grades 3 and 4

Sister Mary Keenan - grades 5 and 6

Sister Cora Marie - junior high (7 & 8)

Sister Marie John - high school

Sister Germana - senior citizens and shut-ins

Sister Mary Gabriel - Coordinator

b. Lay volunteers

1. Teachers interested in teacher-training (planned for Sept.)

2. Teachers interested in helping with preparing lessons and evaluating them.

Just how many we have isn't known presently

3. Getting pastors to accept the program

February, March, April, May

Five parishes wish to be involved at this time

St. Mary's - Father Robert Monroe

St. Joseph's - Msgr. Oliver O'Callaghan

Nativity - Father Arthur Parrotta

St. Isaac Jogues - Father James Birney S.J.

St. Catherine's (Bay Mills) Father Lawless S.J.

II. Subsequent Steps

1. Almost weekly meetings with priests

2. Many meetings with sisters who wish to be involved

3. Area planning sessions with the people

4. Organization of special preparatory committees.

a. Parish Survey Committee Members preparation (2 months)b. Special Education for Mentally Retardedc. Senior Citizen Committee had some sessionsd. Bus Committee

1. purchase of

2. Bus driver

3. schedule

e. Centers

1. use of existing parish facilities is being planned

2. St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Loretto(?), Marquette Center - Nativity

texts - Junior High needs most study right now.

5. Progress on setting up of Released Time Schedule

1. I met with all elementary school principals on April 28th. At that time they agreed to the setting up of released time classes on a different basis, namely, a one and a half hour period each week, utilizing at least four days a week.
(See released time tentative schedules summary sheet)

2. High School

So much is uncertain about the High School schedule for next year that this information is incomplete at the present time.

why so many?
(maximum involvement)
1) with lay teachers
2) parent content session
3) Family sacrament
4) geared towards lay
take over.
5) Fewer next year.

OKAYED
24 hrs now
by council

(?)
minimally

The directives from
Marquette to start
new programs gave no
specifics (who is to
belong)

C. Bros.
Winona

Christian
Awareness

(partys
recollect.
entertainment

6. Present Catholic population in area schools survey

This is incomplete at the present time due to reluctance of area schools to release this information.

Schools survey that is complete at this time

McKinley

Junior High

Jefferson (?)

Personal Comments

The whole of this report would be devoted to a listing of dates, and reports of numerous meetings, but, since that would be rather lengthy, the following is an attempt at summarizing where we are at the present time.

We here in the Sault are indeed an Easter People filled with hope and faith, but both of these gifts have been severely tested in the past few months. The imminent closing of our schools has caused us to take big risks in planning for our future to the extent that we hope not only to reach in our programs from pre-school to adults, but also to the pastoral services of the senior citizen and shut-ins.

* Honesty necessitates that I also mention another element that is prevalent, namely fear. Each pastor in our area is keenly aware that we have financial problems that will not just disappear the moment we initiate new programs. For this reason, Pastors have suffered greatly over whether or not to sign up for this program. Presently, five area pastors representing, St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Nativity, St. Isaac Jogues, and St. Catherine's (Bay Mills) have committed their parishes to the New Programs.

Though each step that we take is slow and difficult, we are much more hope filled today. Pastors, priests, sisters, and parishioners have participated in numerous meetings and we have accomplished some things.

We have started the first stage of the released time program for our High School population - presently there are 200 young people taking advantage of this program. Many are being reached for the first time in a long time about $\frac{1}{2}$ are new another $\frac{1}{2}$ are from Loretto. Our people have shown a willingness to not only belong to the future programs, but also they have shown great generosity in volunteering to participate in the planning and difficult work of reorganization.

Area public school administrators have agreed to a tentative released time schedule for next year. This schedule is tentative at this moment because we have not been able to complete our survey of the Catholic school age population. This study is moving very slowly due to some reluctance on the part of area principals to allow us to check their records, namely, the CA 39's. But, though this difficulty has been cleared up, our area schools are planning on redistricting their population, and that too leaves us with some uncertainty as to Catholic pupil population in each area school.

We are planning on having released time classes daily at our centers. In this way we will take the whole Catholic population from a school such as McKinley every Monday morning, and, Washington every Monday afternoon. (sheets show this schedule more clearly). Junior High school students, as well as High school students will have classes available on a daily basis as well. This does not mean that we expect the same children to come daily, but that once they sign up for a particular day, they will keep to that schedule for the whole year.

You may have noticed that there hasn't been much scheduled for Friday, that is because a part of our pupil population lives far from the city, e.g. Brimley - St. Catherine's, Soo Township area, Bruce Township, and Dafer. We are presently working out a schedule for those areas that we will travel to on Friday. This population, except for St. Catherine's is rather small, and hopefully, we will be able to conduct classes in the homes there.

All Parish Survey

Approximately three months of preparation and hard work on the part of area volunteer parishioners went into the work of preparing this survey. In line with this, pastors agreed to and set the date of May 9th as Religious Education Sunday in our area. On that day, all parishioners were given an explanation of our progress thus far in planning, and

were invited to take the survey during the homily time. Each parishioner was honestly asked to help us by answering vital questions, and indicate their needs, desires, and hopes for the future, in order to be personally involved in the planning.

The collecting of the survey data is not complete at this time, though we have an idea that it was generally very helpful. We are also presently involved in doing this survey in the homes of people who agree to it. The homes that we are visiting are the homes of people who are perhaps alienated from the local churches as indicated by their lack of participation in parish liturgies and other programs.

We have only just begun a new work that will perhaps take many years before it can be evaluated, but we are hopeful that God will continue to bless our area as He most assuredly has in the past.

Money, and the resulting fears ~~may~~ could quite possibly end this program before it begins.

Where our people are:

- 1) coming along
- 2) trying - volunteering
- 3) hoping

Where are you?

(We are ^{people} ^{no personal letter to} ^{us (Srs.) yet.} ^{you do something in spite of} ^{Road Blocks -} ^{to report})

- 1) ^{comments} ^{on} paper - to us to report
- 2) No word from this Board, or the Bishop, other than - give a progress report, or send it to Fr. Brown who isn't even able to be here today (Which is more important to us, Green Bay, or the Marquette Diocese?)

- 3) The one pastor (Fr. Lawless) who had some money to invest right now, was told he couldn't give a detailed itemized report first.

- 4) We hoped to follow the spirit of the gospel, but the tetter of the laws we're hearing are killing us - do you want us to go to other towns?

Do something:

Start a program — + force people
to join you — force people to join
to support you — force pastors to join
<we need some help here>
Who is with us in our planning
are we just "cheap labour?"

Sisters who have signed up to be
in our program are beginning to
want out because we are still
pushing + fighting to get our programs
across

Give a report — then get some
questions + no personal response to
you. — What about this?