

Holy Cross High May Close June 30

By MEL BAUGHMAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

A recommendation that Holy Cross High School close at the end of the 1969-70 school year was made Saturday by the lay board of education of the Diocese of Monterey.

The recommendation has been taken under advisement by the Most Rev. Harry Clinch, bishop of Monterey. He will make his decision by March 1.

Frank Gallagher of Santa Cruz, a member of the lay board, said the recommendation also calls for the closing of Mission Central High School of San Luis Obispo and Junipero High School of Monterey.

Financial problems were cited as the fundamental reason for the action.

Said Gallagher, "I feel the recommendation to close Holy

Cross High School was the only measure we could make, the only way we could go. As of June 30, if the bishop accepts the recommendation, Holy Cross High no longer will exist."

At the same time, however, Gallagher held out faint hope that a last-minute reprieve might still save the school.

"Some ideas possibly may come from the bishop himself," Gallagher told The Sentinel Sat-

urday night upon his return from the nine-hour session in Salinas at which Bishop Clinch was among those present.

As for Mora Central High School in Watsonville, there is a "strong possibility" that it will continue operating next year, Gallagher said.

He explained that the Mora board is exploring a corporate set-up by which it would as-

sume independent fiscal responsibility for the school.

Gallagher stressed that economics was the controlling factor on the board's recommendation to close Holy Cross, Junipero and Mission.

He also emphasized that the fiscal dilemmas confront only the diocesan high schools and that the elementary schools are in better financial condition.

Meanwhile, an unofficial, independent, grass-roots effort

was launched in Santa Cruz to determine the sentiment that prevails in the local community for continuation of religious-oriented education at the high school level.

Dick Duchscher announced formation of a "Survey Committee for a Christian School in the Santa Cruz area." The school would serve children of all faiths.

Letters sent to parents on Friday revealed that a proposal has been made to open a new school using the facilities of the Oblates of St. Joseph on West Drive.

On Saturday night Gallagher stated that the proposal represents one of two alternatives open to parents who seek private religious education at the high school level. The other would be to send their children to Mora of Watsonville.

The proposal to organize a new school at the St. Joseph's Seminary was not discussed at Saturday's meeting, Gallagher said.

He stressed that such a school would be independent of the diocesan educational program.

Enclosed with Duchscher's letter was a survey card on which parents could indicate their interest, the number of students they might send to the new school, and their opinions on levels of tuition.

The Duchscher group hopes to have the survey completed by March 1.

In the letter, he commented that the St. Joseph's facility includes "a modern school building capable of handling up to 300 students immediately. Library, P.E. and related facilities required by state and local codes are a part of the plant. Future expansion on the property would provide a gym-cafeteria-auditorium complex and additional classroom and sports are for 600 students."

Duchscher wrote: "This school, to be useful to you and the community, would have to provide educational and reasonable disciplinary standards, as well as a sound religious education for students of all faiths."

"Many people are working now to find answers to the many questions which must be asked before the school can be made a reality by next September. . . If we can come with a concrete proposal in the next two months which is educationally and financially sound, there are persons ready and willing to give generously of their time or money to make it happen."

"We want this school to be

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forces. They said the strategic value was not worth the cost.

While the plain is of little value to the Laotian government, it is vital to the Vietnamese. They need it to guard the Ho Chi Minh Trail through eastern Laos over which they send men and supplies to South Vietnam.

Government troops on the plain could have menaced the enemy if they pushed eastward, they were content to stay where they were after seizing the plateau in a surprise offensive last summer.

More than 15,000 civilians living in the plain were evacuated by massive airlift a few days before the enemy push and thus spared being caught in the fighting.

Interior Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher requested state officials.

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the kind of school you feel you need for your children."

Duchscher also pointed out: "Complete accreditation for the school and an expanded educational program under professional lay administration directly under the parents control is what we are aiming for."

"We will not consider the proposal feasible unless we can guarantee the school having this and future growth."

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