

Our Lady Of Consolation School Provides Educational Choices

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

A family educational tradition, Our Lady of Consolation School has been serving Charlotte's black community for 27 years. Although the school on Statesville Avenue is part of a Catholic parish, 80 percent of its student body is not Catholic. Many of the students' parents also attended the school.

of the teaching staff for the students."

Dr. Jewitt Walker, president of the Home School Association, is an AME Zion minister. His eighth grade son has attended Our Lady of Consolation since fourth grade. "I'd hate to see the school close after 27 years," Dr. Walker commented. "It has provided a quality education and given much to the community. Dr. Walker explained that he chose Our Lady of Consolation for his son because he wanted the "best kind of discipline and curriculum," as well as a religious education.

three-four) through eighth grade. Class size averages 17-18 children. The school stresses "basic academics," said Father Thomas, and students do well on standardized tests.

The school was started in 1957 by the Oblate Sisters of Providence, an order of black sisters based in Maryland. The order has continued to staff the school until the present. Next year, however, that will change. "We're at a point where this school will be more in the hands of the parish board of education, and not so much dependent on the Sisters," said Father Thomas. "We're moving more toward local control."

According to Father Wilbur N. Thomas, pastor of Our Lady of Consolation Church, one of the missions of the school is to provide the total community with some educational choices that include a Christian value system. "We feel we have a gift to offer the community," Father Thomas explained. He went on to say that the school is characterized by "intense caring on the part

"I don't think the religious differences have interfered with his growth," Dr. Walker continued. "They haven't tried to proselytize him."

This year, the school has had a student enrollment of 216 in pre-school (ages

Consequently, a search committee has been formed to find a new principal, a position which has always been filled by one of the Sisters. According to Father Thomas, the new principal could be "any certified Roman Catholic who shares our convictions."

The school is primarily supported by tuition fees. Tuition is due monthly. At some point in the future, financial aid may be available for those who are unable to afford the tuition. "We really see a need for financial help," admitted Father Thomas, "and we're working on it."



In an address at the 117th commencement at Barber-Scotia College, Patricia A. Russell, attorney-at-law and public speaker from San Antonio, Texas, congratulated the class of 1984 for "having held on and held out in a time when we don't know what condition our condition is in." Russell noted that a large number of blacks who graduate from predominantly black institutions are the first in their families to receive a college degree. She challenged

the graduates to go forward as positive examples as to why predominantly black colleges should survive. "You are standing on somebody else's shoulders," said Russell to the class of 84. "Somebody in your family had to step back, so that you could step forward. Yes, another one of us has crossed the finish line. But you must rise and give testament to our story. You must make the difference. And you must tell the world that we will keep coming."

SCLC Sets Hearings

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George Metcalf, assistant business manager at Presbyterian Hospital explained there are a lot of circumstances on which admission is based. "We never turn down an emergency need," he presented.

Metcalf continued, "If a patient needs surgery, and isn't insured, we will es-

timate the cost, and usually require a percentage of the money as a deposit. Sometimes if it's something like a hernia problem, we will ask the patient to wait a couple of days until he or she can make financial arrangements," Metcalf asserted. "We have to do this because we get so many people who won't pay

their bills," he noted.

Prior to Tuesday's hearings, a mass meeting will be held Monday night at 7 o'clock in University Park Baptist Church. Rev. Lowery will be the keynote speaker. Rev. Cleophus Robinson will also attend.

Performers will be John Key and the Key Singers.

Dropouts Cause Special Problems

In today's job market, finding employment is as difficult for the college graduate as it is for the high school drop-out.

The high school drop-out presents a special problem being both untrained and without a diploma.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council and the City of Charlotte's Employment and Training Department are working together to combat this problem.

Presently, they are recruiting high school drop-outs for selection and participation in the Education For Employment-Limited Work Experience Program.

Individuals chosen to participate in this program will have the opportunity to complete high school, obtain part-time employment counseling, and job placement assistance.

In order to qualify for this program, an applicant must be between the ages of 16-21, residents of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, highly motivated and meet income guidelines.

Anyone interested can call the Youth Council at

334-3035 or the City of Charlotte Employment and Training Department at 374-3101 for an interview and more information.

The closing date for applications is May 30.

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Each night last week, Rev. Marvin Yancey shared the Word of God at the Ebenezer Baptist Church Revival, 733 E. Trade St. In addition to his ministerial talents, God has also granted him the talent to compose music and perform uplifting spirituals. Workshops led by Rev. Yancey began each evening at 5:30. Rev. A. B. Sutton was host pastor. (Photo By Calvin Ferguson of Cal-Du Photography)

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Johnson C. Smith University

117th Annual Commencement
May 20, 1984

HEADQUARTERS: Adam's Mark Hotel
(Formerly The Sheraton Center)
555 South McDowell Street
Charlotte, N.C. 28204

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- Saturday, May 19, 1984**
- 9 a.m. - 10 a.m. Alumni Registration, Ed. Bldg.
 - 9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Coffee with Uni. President, Ed. Bldg.
 - 10 a.m. Classes Reunion Meeting, Ed. Bldg.
 - 11:15 a.m. Class Pictures
 - 12:30 p.m. Gen. Alumni Luncheon, Stdnt. Union
 - 2 p.m. Gen. Alumni Meeting, Stdnt. Union, B&C
 - 6 p.m. Annual Alumni Banquet, Stdnt. Union, (Faculty, Staff, Graduating Seniors and Parents are Invited)
 - 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Annual Reunion Dance, McDonald's Caf.
- Sunday, May 20, 1984**
- 10 a.m. Worship Svc., University Church
Speaker: Rev. W. F. McIntosh, Jr.
Pastor, Green St. Pres. Church, USA
Morganton, N.C.
 - 11:30 a.m. President's Brunch, President's Home
(For Golden and Silver Anniversary Classes in Reunion)
 - 2 p.m. Commencement, Ovens Auditorium
Speaker: A. L. Higginbotham, Jr.
Circuit Judge
U.S. State Court of Appeals, 3rd Circuit
Philadelphia, Pa.

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