

Copies to:

V. Rev. Father Provincial  
(one copy)  
Rev. J. Elliott MacGuigan, S.J.  
(two copies)

A  
POSITION PAPER  
ON  
BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL  
211 Steeles Avenue East,  
Willowdale, Ontario

Submitted by the Brebeuf  
Jesuit Community to the  
Commission on Ministries  
of the Upper Canada Pro-  
vince of the Society of  
Jesus

May 21, 1968

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PART I - BREBEUF'S PAST

1. Brebeuf College School is completing its fifth year of operation. It opened in September, 1963, with Grades 9 & 10. Each successive year an additional grade was added. By 1966 all grades, including Grade 13, were being offered at Brebeuf.

2. Brebeuf was established as part of a Catholic high school expansion program undertaken by the Archdiocese to serve a rapidly growing population in the Toronto area. This program involved the construction of several new Catholic high schools at a total cost of \$6,000,000.

The money for this program was collected from the rank and file of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese by means of a formal drive followed by parish assessments over a period of years.

Out of this fund the Archdiocese paid all the costs of Brebeuf College School (the land, the construction and the furnishings). As a result the Archdiocese exercises a certain control over Brebeuf.

And, since this money was in large part collected from families of ordinary means, it is the wish of the Archdiocese that the tuition fee be kept at a minimum so that these families will be able to enrol their sons at Brebeuf.



3. The operation of Brebeuf College School was undertaken by the Jesuits for three reasons:
  - (a) because it seemed appropriate to have a Jesuit high school in Canada's largest English-speaking city,
  - (b) because it was deemed just that the Jesuits should have a major institution serving the Toronto Catholic community in return for the generous support of the Order through the years by Toronto Catholics,
  - (c) because some prominent local Catholics had been asking for a Jesuit high school in the Toronto area.
4. The master plan of the Archdiocese's high-school expansion program located the new schools territorially so that as far as possible Metropolitan Toronto would be 'covered'. Brebeuf College School was located in the Bayview area so as to cover north-central Toronto.

Finding a site proved difficult since generally the price of land was exorbitant.

There was considerable delay until Archbishop Pocock commissioned Bishop Marrocco to expedite the Jesuit high school project.
5. On behalf of the Archdiocese, with the counsel of a lay committee, and with the approval of the Jesuits,

Bishop Marrocco arranged the purchase of thirteen acres of land on Steeles Avenue east of Yonge Street.

This land was the major portion of an undeveloped, eighteen-acre property owned by the Metropolitan Separate School Board.

The Board retained five acres of <sup>the</sup> property for itself; and the Board refused at the time to define the exact boundaries dividing its five acres from the thirteen acres purchased by the Archdiocese for Brebeuf, since road-patterns in the area were indefinite.

However, the Board agreed to a location for the Brebeuf school and residence buildings so that construction might begin.

6. The total amount paid by the Archdiocese for the land, the construction, and furnishing of the school, and for the construction and furnishing of the residence, was \$1,135,000.

Of this total, the amount of \$221,664. (for the construction and furnishing of the Brebeuf Jesuit residence) was by way of a loan from the Archdiocese to the Corporation of Brebeuf College School at a low interest rate with an indefinite term.

7. The low amount of money budgeted by the Archdiocese for the Brebeuf College School project, resulted in the

following deficiencies:

- (a) a small library, and a very small cafeteria requiring three lunch-sittings to accommodate the student body,
- (b) very little storage space, and no indoor space where, in bad weather, students can congregate before and after the class-day, during lunch-period spare time and other free times,
- (c) inadequate parking facilities, and little by way of drainage facilities (on a property plagued with surface-water problems),
- (d) insufficient outdoor play space, and
- (e) no provision for access to the school from the East.

8. When the Archdiocese's budgeted sum for Brebeuf College School was exhausted, there remained capital expenses of approximately \$50,000. for essential furnishings, construction odds and ends, and site work,

The responsibility for the year to year financial operation of the school, and for the remaining capital expenses, was left to the Jesuits.

To legalize the responsibility of the Jesuits for all aspects of Brebeuf's operation, the Archdiocese was to transfer by deed to the Jesuits ownership of the land and of the school and residence buildings. This deed was to be on the condition that, were the Jesuits to leave Brebeuf, ownership

would revert to the Archdiocese.

No transfer of ownership from the Archdiocese to the Jesuits has yet been made.

In fact, although the Metropolitan Separate School Board has received payment for the land from the Archdiocese, to date no transfer of ownership of the land from the Metropolitan Separate School Board to the Archdiocese has been made, since the Board has not yet designated the boundaries of the five acres it is retaining for itself.

9. During its first four years (1963-1967), Brebeuf operated as an entirely private school.

But in 1967 Brebeuf incorporated its Grades 9 & 10 into the Separate (Public) School System. This move was made for the following reasons:

- (a) to honour the wish of Catholic bishops in Ontario that in general Catholic high schools place their Grades 9 & 10 under the Separate School Boards, so as to make use of available tax-money for these grades in order to enhance the possibility of obtaining tax-money, by Provincial Government legislation, for Grades 11, 12 & 13 as well,
- (b) to relieve parents of the onus of paying tuition fees,
- (c) to alleviate the operational deficit Brebeuf was incurring each year.



PART II - BREBEUF'S PRESENT

10. The enrolment at Brebeuf this year (1967-1968) is 434 male students in Grades 9 to 13.

A small number of girls from St. Joseph's Morrow Park High School take Grade 13 courses at Brebeuf in Geography, Physics & Mathematics, in exchange for a few Brebeuf boys who take Grade 13 courses at Morrow Park in Latin & Biology.

11. Most Brebeuf students are from the north-central section of Metropolitan Toronto.

12. The larger groups of Brebeuf students come from nine parishes; but twenty-five parishes are represented in the Brebeuf student body.

13. The majority of Brebeuf students come from middle- (or higher) class families with good educational backgrounds.

14. All Brebeuf students are in the Ontario Five-Year Arts & Science program. Brebeuf does not offer the Four-Year Arts & Science program. Brebeuf does not offer the Business & Commerce or the Science Technology & Trades programs.



15. Since September, 1967, entrance requirements at Brebeuf (by Metropolitan Separate School Board regulation) admit to Grade 9 all students who obtain an average of 50% in Grade 8.

16. The academic achievement of Brebeuf students, during Brebeuf's first four years (1963-1967), ranged from better-than-average to outstanding.

17. The lay-religious staff ratio at Brebeuf is ten lay teachers to twelve Jesuit teachers. Next year (1968-1969) the proportion of lay teachers will increase.

Of the Jesuits at Brebeuf, nine are full-time teachers, three are part-time, and one is only in administration.

The teacher-student ratio is one teacher per 20.6 students.

18. The total population of the 'Brebeuf area' is 217,000. The total Catholic population of the 'Brebeuf area' is 32,000.

The proportion of Catholic high-school-age boys in the 'Brebeuf area', who attend non-Catholic schools, is 62%.

1% of the students at Brebeuf is non-Catholic.

19. Grades 9 & 10 are financed, under the present arrangement, by tax-money administered by the Metropolitan Separate (Public) School Board. Facilities at Brebeuf for Grades 9 & 10 are rented by the Board. On behalf of Brebeuf's Grades 9 & 10, the Board this year (1967-1968) is spending \$440. per student (which includes text books).

Grades 11, 12 & 13 are financed by the tuition fee paid by parents to Brebeuf College School. The fee this year (1967-1968) is \$300. per Student.

20. Each year Brebeuf College School has incurred a substantial operational deficit. The annual operational deficits, from the beginning, are as follows:

1963-1964 .....	\$ 44,575.
1964-1965.....	37,037.
1965-1966 .....	26,748.
1966-1967 .....	54,577.
1967-1968(projected)	<u>32,000.</u>

TOTAL \$194,937.

21. Each year the excess of expenses over revenue (the operational deficit) is paid by means of a loan from the Royal Bank of Canada to Brebeuf College School, negotiated by the Jesuit Fathers of Upper Canada.

22. In 1965 the Catholic high schools in Ontario in general began to experience serious financial difficulties. In 1966 the Catholic bishops of Ontario came to the conclusion that financial support from the Provincial Government for Grades 11, 12 & 13 had to be obtained.

Accordingly, a wholesale organizing of Catholics throughout the Province of Ontario was undertaken, with a view to making a request for the necessary Provincial legislation to extend the Separate School system up to and including Grade 13.

To date no formal petition to the Provincial Government has been made.

23. In November, 1965, Brebeuf turned to parents for extra financial assistance by means of voluntary donations over and above the tuition fee. A total of \$15,000. was realized, and was used to reduce the operational deficit.

In November, 1966, the appeal was renewed. A total of \$14,000. was realized and again applied to the operational deficit.

By November, 1967, parents began to react unfavourably to an annual drive for extra funds. Nevertheless the Brebeuf Advisory Board addressed an appeal to friends and parents for contributions towards an urgent site-development project requiring \$37,000. A great deal of

work was done on this drive, and finally the required amount was realized and has been allocated to the urgent site-development project.

24. As far as Jesuit investment is concerned, the only Jesuit 'investment' at Brebeuf consists in the money provided by the Jesuit Fathers of Upper Canada, by way of a bank loan, to make up the annual operational deficits.

This bank loan, as of July 31, 1967 totaled \$164,000.

25. The Jesuits have no assets at all at Brebeuf - neither negotiable nor non-negotiable.

26. The debt owed to the Archdiocese by Brebeuf College School for the construction and furnishing of the residence is, by agreement, being disregarded as long as the deficit situation continues.

27. Brebeuf College School differs from traditional Jesuit schools in its lack of autonomy:
- (a) its assets are owned by the Archdiocese,
  - (b) it is bound by <sup>or</sup> more or less common policy with seventeen other Catholic high schools in Metropolitan Toronto,
  - (c) the amount chargeable for tuition (in Grades 11, 12 & 13) is controlled by the Archdiocese, and



(11)

- (d) Grades 9 & 10 are under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Separate School Board.

Regarding 27.(d) above, Brebeuf has now completed one year of operation with Grades 9 & 10 under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Separate School Board. A statement of the problems generated by this arrangement is in order. These problems are as follows:

- (a) since Grades 9 & 10 are under the Metropolitan Separate School Board, the area from which students can enrol in these grades at Brebeuf is restricted to ~~the~~ Metropolitan Toronto (the area south of the school) - this causes resentment among Catholic parents in Markham and Vaughan (the area north of the school) who were given to understand that Brebeuf would serve them, and some of whom moved into this area to be near Brebeuf - moreover, this area (north of Brebeuf) previously accounted for 29% of Brebeuf's enrolment,
- (b) as a Catholic 'public' school under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Separate School Board for Grades 9 & 10, Brebeuf is bound to adhere to policies which make the achievement of excellence virtually impossible.

Already admission and promotion standards have been decreased: selectivity of students has become non-existent, indeed, students must be admitted to Grades 9 & 10 with standings which would not permit them to enter comparable courses in the Public High Schools.

At the same time, because of the nature of the contract which obtains with the Separate School Board this school must make provision for all students in Grades 11 & 12 even though we are not equipped to provide ancillary courses such as Commercial, Typing, etc. which would be available in Public High Schools.

This school may be in danger of becoming bottom-heavy, i.e. some students may come because of the no tuition system in Grades 9 & 10 and then depart for the Collegiates for Grade 11.

At the same time we are forced to refuse admission to Grade 9 to many who would go all the way in our one program.

PART III- BREBEUF'S FUTURE

28. Brebeuf College School is excellently located. It is central to what is becoming the most populous and the most prosperous area in English-speaking Canada. Locally, it is situated in an attractive, prestige district.
29. In its first four years of operation Brebeuf established a fine reputation. Its public image has been that of an ongoing institution with high academic and disciplinary standards.
30. Short range recommendation:  
Under the direction of the Catholic hierarchy a lay movement is presently under way in Ontario to 'save' Catholic high schools by obtaining tax money for Grades 11, 12 & 13. To date there is no official indication of what will be the Provincial Government's response to this campaign.  
It is proposed therefore, as a short range recommendation, that for the time being Brebeuf College School continue with the present set-up until the question of tax-money to support Grades 11, 12 & 13 is settled.  
At the same time it is recommended that for the

time being an attempt be made to obtain 'ad hoc' financial assistance from the Archdiocese.

31. Long range recommendation:

It is suggested that, in its long range assessment of ministries, the Commission consider Brebeuf College School to have the prospect of an effective ministry, as a completely private institution, greater than that of any other of our secondary schools.

It is recommended that plans for the future be:

- (a) to regain a completely private status,
- (b) to adopt the traditionally Jesuit character of a school for the intellectually and morally elite, with adequate scholarship resources and a pre-University curriculum,
- (c) to increase the number of qualified Jesuits on the teaching staff, and
- (d) to charge a higher tuition fee in keeping with the actual cost of educating students at Brebeuf.

32. If public funds refused:

It is anticipated by the Catholic hierarchy and by school administrators that, if public funds for Grades 11, 12 & 13 are refused, Catholic high schools in Ontario will gradually have to close, at least as far as these grades are concerned.



In this event there will be a demand for a first-class, private(through all grades) Catholic high school in the Toronto area, financed by adequate tuition fees.

In the Toronto area Brebeuf is admirably suited, by its location, reputation and Jesuit traditions, to be such a school.

33. If public funds granted:

If, on the other hand, public funds for Grades 11, 12 & 13 are granted, it is still recommended that Brebeuf's plans for the future be to regain a completely private status.

It is felt that Brebeuf's apostolate for the future does not lie in operating as a public, Catholic school, for the following reasons:

(a) public, Catholic schools in Ontario inevitably are reduced to a common denominator and afflicted with the problems inherent in mass education in a democratic system, problems such as

- the obligation to accept all students in a given area,
- the lack of complete control over discipline at the local level,
- the adverse influence of the less motivated students upon students with average-or-better motivation and ambition,
- the diminution in the school of a general spirit of scholarship and gentility,

-the possibility of the accretion of less challenging courses to the curriculum,

- (b) public, Catholic schools by their nature are not in keeping with our Jesuit tradition,
- (c) such schools are not what is expected of the Jesuits by friends and devotees of the Order,
- (d) such schools do not appeal to our younger Jesuits, who feel overtrained for such work and seek something special (which is what a first-class, completely-private Brebeuf College School would be).

On the positive side, it is suggested that a first-class, completely-private Brebeuf College School could serve the whole cause of Catholic secondary education in a singular manner by researching and initiating effective techniques in catechetics, counselling, communications, ecumenism, etc.

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APPENDIX A

SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUALS OF THE  
BREBEUF JESUIT COMMUNITY:

"It is my opinion that we should have at least one traditionally Jesuit school in our Province of which we can be justifiably proud. I think it would do a lot for Jesuit morale to have such a place."

"A determined effort should be made to train Jesuits for the teaching of Religion. Ours should be leaders in discovering solutions to the problem of teaching Religion."

"If it is decided to continue the high-school ministry a stronger effort should be made to bring a more practical knowledge of this work to our younger men. Few Jesuits seem to be aware that the calibre of high-school work is steadily rising and that the upper grades would adequately challenge their mental potential. Also, a clarification should be produced showing the sacerdotal element in being a teacher."

"There is an increasing demand by parents for excellence of instruction without regard to the religious climate of the school. Any move which would make a school 'just another public institution' is resisted by them. Flexibility, a freedom to do what we can do with distinction, a definite pre-university climate - all these are factors which many parents look for. At the same time we must recognize the legitimate desires of those parents who want a Catholic education for their children and might be willing to sacrifice excellence of instruction for a tuition-free Catholic schooling."

"In completely-public Catholic high schools, since

(18)

financing is no problem, there may be a tendency in some dioceses to depreciate the value and need of Religious on the staff, and to favour secular priests in order to exercise influence and promote vocations."

"If Brebeuf is not to remain a private school for an elite, would it not be advisable to free those involved in administration, and send those who are qualified teachers into the public school system?"

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APPENDIX B

MEETING OF THE BREBEUF LAY ADVISORY BOARD

At a meeting May 21, 1968, the Brebeuf Lay Advisory Board invited members of the Brebeuf lay teaching staff to participate in a thorough discussion of the future of Brebeuf College School.

At the conclusion of this meeting the following statement was recorded:

"Having studied excerpts from the POSITION PAPER on Brebeuf College School, the members of the Brebeuf Lay Advisory Board at their meeting of May 21, 1968 unanimously endorsed the short range recommendation outlined in Section # 30 of the POSITION PAPER, and also the long range recommendation outlined in Section # 31.

The Board endorsed this long range recommendation whether public funds are refused (as in Section # 32) or whether public funds are granted (as in Section # 33).

Those present at this meeting wholeheartedly expressed a desire to see a private school, such as Brebeuf, under the direction of the Jesuits with the traditional Jesuit character and quality of discipline and scholarship.

They further expressed a preference for a Jesuit apostolate in operating such a Jesuit school rather than teaching in a school operated by the Metropolitan Separate School Board as in Grades 9 & 10 Brebeuf is presently structured."

SOME ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AT THIS MEETING FROM INDIVIDUALS OF THE LAY ADVISORY BOARD AND THE LAY TEACHING STAFF:

"I feel that it should be pointed out that Section # 31, subsection (c) of the POSITION PAPER is not to be

interpreted as depreciating the value and need of lay teachers on the Brebeuf staff, and that the Board fully recognizes the significant contribution made by the lay teachers to the successful operation of Brebeuf College School."

"With reference to Section # 33, subsection (g), of the POSITION PAPER I suggest that younger Jesuits have no right to feel overtrained for work in a public, Catholic secondary school. Given the challenge contained in educating today's adolescents, no teacher should ever feel overtrained."

"I can readily understand how Jesuits would lean towards teaching in schools that have a special status since their long and arduous training qualifies them for something more than teaching in common, public secondary schools."

"I seriously question whether the Jesuits would be willing to continue operating Brebeuf were it to be under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Separate School Board in all grades 9 to 13."

"It is necessary for us to know what is the policy of the top officials of the Jesuit Order in English-speaking Canada on basic issues such as these before we (the Board) can offer practical advice to the Brebeuf administration regarding the future of the school."

"It is my impression that the very opposite is the case, namely, that top officials of the Jesuit Order want our suggestions and recommendations to assist them in making decisions on basic issues such as these."

"I would like to have it clarified that there is no

contradiction in the POSITION PAPER between the short range recommendation (Section # 30) and the long range recommendation (Section # 31) since the former concerns Catholic high schools in general throughout the Province of Ontario whereas the latter concerns Brebeuf College School in Toronto in particular."

"I feel very strongly that the short ~~range~~ recommendation in the POSITION PAPER (Section # 30) must be adhered to in a spirit of cooperation with the Association of Catholic High School Boards of Ontario so as to present a united front in the petition for government financial support of Grades 11, 12 & 13."

"Although I favour, with the rest of you, a completely private status for Brebeuf, I would hope that, if eventually it turned out that for some reason or other a private status for Brebeuf is absolutely impossible, the Jesuits would remain at Brebeuf in a public school setup."

"It is impossible for us to determine how much the tuition fee would have to be to operate Brebeuf College School as a strictly private school in the future, and difficult to predict what proportion of Catholic parents would be willing and able to pay the fee."

"Obvious problems relative to financing have been brought out here at this meeting with no solutions being given, but most members are of the opinion that there are sufficient Catholic parents in this area willing to pay the necessary fees for operating a completely private Jesuit school."

"A canvass should be made - a questionnaire circulated to parents to see what proportion would be willing and able to pay the required tuition fee."

"When we think of the enormous population predicted for this area it is clear that a Catholic private secondary school for boys would be in demand. Think of all the Catholic parents now sending their sons to Upper Canada College, St. Andrew's College, and other non-Catholic private schools. There is no doubt in my mind that if there were at the most one or two Catholic private secondary schools for boys in this Toronto area, and the other Catholic high schools were public, under the Separate School Board, through all grades, there would be plenty of students of sufficient intellectual and moral calibre and parents willing to pay the price to operate Brebeuf successfully as a completely private school."

Note: the members of the Brebeuf Lay Advisory Board and of the Brebeuf lay staff who attended this meeting were instructed to keep the contents of the POSITION PAPER and of the discussion at the meeting strictly confidential.



## APPENDIX C

## BREBEUF COLLEGE SCHOOL-STATEMENT OF REVENUE &amp; EXPENSE

For the nine months ended April 30, 1968

REVENUE		EXPENSE	
Donations	\$ 1,951.06	Ont. Hosp. Expense	\$ 221.62
M.S.S.B. Rent	9,489.70	P. S. I.	" 278.60
Tuition	62,399.00	C. P. P.	" 181.28
		Superann.	" 3,078.72
		Communications	2,214.30
		Exch. & Bank Serv.	44.50
		Instructional	2,502.23
		Insurance	53.28
		Interest on Loan	7,535.06
		Administration	711.85
		Public Relations	362.10
		Utilities	5,139.10
		Salaries:	
		Office	6,354.00
		Maintenance	7,837.14
		Lay Teachers	47,512.00
		Maintenance	2,713.45
		Furnishings	836.83
		Improvements	3,328.85
<hr/>		<hr/>	
SUB TOTAL	\$ 73,839.76	SUB TOTAL	\$ 90,904.91
Add estimated Revenue & Expense:			
<u>For the three months ending July 31, 1968</u>			
	8,000.00		23,000.00
<hr/>		<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$ 81,839.76	TOTAL	\$ 113,904.91

Estimated deficit for the current school year  
ending July 31, 1968: \$ 32,000.

Estimated deficit for the current school year  
ending July 31, 1968, were Brebeuf's grades 9  
& 10 NOT under the Metropolitan Separate  
School Board ..... \$ 55,000.