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St. Ann's close to deal for building

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The academy is expected to make a major announcement regarding a new location for the school in the next month, an academy official said late last week. The official declined to give specifics, citing the sensitivity of real estate negotiations.

The school leased classroom space to get started, making its home during this first academic year at Hornell's United Presbyterian Church. Academy officials say they are grateful to United Presbyterian, but realize it's not a viable long-term option for the school.

"A move to our own building will accomplish several objectives," said Sister Dolores Ann Stein, an academy board member. "First, it gives us space so we can accept more students as we grow. Enrollment has increased since last September and we are currently accepting registrations for next year. We just need more space.

"Second, the school says they can save money if they buy their own building instead of paying rent."

"Rates are extremely low right now, so the timing is perfect," agreed academy treasurer Hector Hoyos. "Plus, our own school building shows parents that this is a long-term commitment that we are making."

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester ran St. Ann School in Hornell for 149 years before it closed for financial reasons in 2012. St. Ann's Academy is being run as a private school by a group of committed Our Lady of the Valley parishioners and business people who want to assure that area children can continue to get a Catholic education locally.

The school accepts children of any faith from pre-K 3-year-olds through fourth grade. The school intends to add a grade every year until at least sixth grade.

The current enrollment is 27, with academy officials confident the enrollment could reach 40 for the start of the next school year in September.

Parents wanting to know more about the school or how to register are encouraged to call (607) 545-4060 or go to www.SAAcademy.org. Interested parents may call for an appointment for an observation during the school day.

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