

Practical Value of 'Craft Class' at Immaculate School Wins Praise

A unique experiment in education has developed into a vital phase of elementary school work in the "craft class" of Immaculate Conception School.

The Immaculate craft class is composed of a group of 49 youngsters, aged 11 to 16, in a non-Regents group whose work in practical and industrial arts has achieved such recognition as to make the once-experimental project an essential part of the regular school program.

Started experimentally in the Fall of 1946 by Sister St. Mark, S.S.U. principal of Immaculate Conception School, with the approval of the pastor, the Rt. Rev. Magr. Joseph S. Cameron and the Rev. Dr. Charles J. Mahoney, Superintendent of Schools, the class has successfully proven the value of using practical science in developing a child in accord with his capabilities.

Sister St. Mark, All during her teaching career, Sister St. Mark had noted that in every group of youngsters there were 1 or 2 who were unable to profit from the regular school curriculum. Given a practical task, however, they were frequently more able and industrious than the others she had observed.

Their abilities, she concluded, were being sacrificed in the bookish atmosphere of the regular school room where they were forced to do work not in line with their natural capabilities. The craft class was to be the answer to wasted talents.

With the encouragement of Monsignor Cameron and the

school authorities, the first class of 32 was picked and the parents were interviewed. In every case, parents rapidly grasped the importance of the project and gave their support. They all agreed that their children would be happier doing the fascinating new work and were willing to do anything to keep them in the Catholic school.

Craft Laboratory
An unused classroom became the first craft laboratory, completely furnished and equipped through the generosity of sympathetic benefactors and friends. All the expensive materials used in the lab are provided by friends of the project or bought with money gifts.

All the basic work of the regular classes is done by the craft group who are divided into two homerooms, called the "Junior Homeroom" and the "Senior Homeroom." Every child is in a grade just like the rest of the pupils in the school.

The girls and boys work with wood, leather, yarn, fabric, shells, beads and spoons as well as paints and varnish. A typical day starts with prayers and hymn after which one homeroom does its class room work, while the other adjourns to the laboratory to work on its latest project.

Sound Films
Audio-visual materials come in for extensive use in the classroom to supplement regular instruction. The 16mm sound films, film strips (silent), victrola records and wire recordings figure largely in teaching religion, English,

social studies and science.

Even the classroom subjects are tied in with practical things. For instance an arithmetic lesson is based on home-making economy, paying of bills or the like. In hygiene classes stress is laid on mental health and wholesome Christian social attitudes.

Particularly colorful are the social and historical studies, which are frequently dramatized by the craft group. On exhibit in the craft lab is a motion picture made by themselves on the story of early colonization in America.

Drawn by hand, the film strips are wound up on a roller device. While the movie is set in motion by a crank, appropriate sound effects are provided by the imaginative youngsters who do the sounds themselves or synchronize with recording effects with the movie. The clever machine will probably be on exhibit during the latter part of May when the artistic hand work of the craft class goes on public display.

Looks and Sew

They enjoy cooking, sewing and dancing, as do most of the groups of Immaculate Conception School. Members of the craft class are especially fond of square dancing given by physical education instructor Joseph Reimer and will do an Irish jig or a reel at the drop of a hat.

State Recognition

The non-Regents, craft group has attracted much favorable recognition from teacher observers from Brockport Teachers College, practice teachers from Nazareth Col-

lege, and five different European educators.

One of the finest tributes paid to the work of the craft project came from Charles Becker, an associate education superintendent of the New York State Department of Education. After a recent visit, Mr. Becker wrote Sister St. Mark:

"It was especially pleasing

to learn you believe in the philosophy that every child has a contribution to make to society on his own ability level. I feel definitely that you are doing very fine work. The Sisters are doing wonderful work, for which they are well suited. Thanks for the worthwhile things you showed me."

Taxpayers Saved Over Seven Million

Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Rochester last year saved taxpayers \$7,400,000 in educational costs.

The table below shows the contribution of the Catholic people in each community of the Diocese. Such a figure is arrived at by multiplying the number of children in the Catholic schools of a community by the per pupil cost of public education in that community. The per pupil cost figures used here are those of 1947-48, the latest figures available from the New York State Department of Education.

Rochester	19,909	\$238.22	\$4,742,721.98
Auburn	1,894	219.47	416,676.18
Elmira	1,418	202.00	287,296.00
Geneva	1,138	244.14	277,831.32
Irondequoit	1,225	217.65	266,886.25
Greece	1,029	206.83	212,828.07
Corning (Dist. 9)	510	215.70	110,007.00
Corning (Dist. 13)	281	157.58	44,278.98
Ithaca	400	234.47	93,788.00
Gates	450	Figures not available	
Hornell	396	201.45	79,774.20
Brighton	315	237.50	74,812.50
Canandaigua	360	198.31	71,591.60
Dansville	303	228.69	69,293.07
Seneca Falls	367	185.42	68,049.14
Wayland 199	244	247.41	60,368.04
Perkinsville 45	328	169.74	55,722.72
Webster	180	257.48	46,346.40
Clyde	185	240.21	44,438.85
Brockport	153	246.99	37,789.47
Peon Van	163	207.85	33,879.55
Mt. Morris	159	209.81	33,359.79
Avon	129	251.81	32,483.49
Waterloo	161	163.21	26,276.81
Lima	131	188.35	24,673.85
Owego	145	151.88	22,022.60
Total	32,403		\$7,413,966.86

Silver Burdett

is proud that

Catholic Schools everywhere are . . .

MAKING SURE OF ARITHMETIC

by Gray, Springstun, Schaaf, and Robert L. Morton, author of

Teaching Arithmetic in Elementary School

Here Are Some Diocesan Adoptions

Buffalo

Toledo

Charleston

Sante Fe

Ogdensburg

St. Paul

Dubuque

Louisville

St. Louis

Duluth

Burlington

Portland,

Oregon

SILVER BURDETT COMPANY

45 EAST 17 STREET
NEW YORK 3, N. Y.

These and many other adoptions attest to the soundness of this complete elementary school arithmetic program.

- its skillful drill program . . .
- its emphasis on understanding . . .
- its careful grading of problems . . .
- its unique reteaching program . . .

MAKE SURE OF PERMANENT POWER IN ARITHMETIC

clip this coupon and send for free booklet

Please send me your free booklet
SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED IN ARITHMETIC

Name _____

City _____ State _____

Address _____

SILVER BURDETT CO.
45 EAST 17 STREET,
NEW YORK 3, N. Y. RCJ



for progress
in learning

THE CATHEDRAL BASIC READING PROGRAM
(Grades 1-8)

THE CATHEDRAL BASIC SCIENCE PROGRAM
(Grades 1-8)

THE THORNDIKE-CENTURY DICTIONARY PROGRAM

Beginning Dictionary (Grades 4 or 5)
Junior Dictionary (Grades 5-8)
Senior Dictionary (Grades 7-12)

HIGH SCHOOL LATIN PROGRAM

Using Latin, Book I
Using Latin, Book II
Latin Book III
Vergil's AENEID

SCOTT, FORESMAN AND COMPANY

Catholic Schools Department
Francis G. Lacey, Representative,
114 East 23rd Street
New York City 10, N. Y.

