

Pre-School Religion Classes Grow

Religious education, now breaking through in Catholic circles on the adult, "post-school" level, is also opening in the other direction—the pre-school world.

St. Margaret Mary's Church in Irondequoit is typical of several area Catholic parishes which are finding a warm response to programs geared to four and five year olds.

Some 115 little tots are currently enrolled for the St. Margaret Mary's class, which takes place during the 11 o'clock Sunday morning Mass. While their parents are assisting at Mass, the children are busily engaged

across the street in the parish school. Ten lay volunteers staff the program, directed by Mrs. James Cleary.

"We teach the fundamentals of the Faith to these little ones in a way they can understand," Mrs. Cleary stated.

Her volunteer teachers follow the Pre-School Religion Program guides first developed by St. Frances Cabrini parish in Allen Park, Michigan. Lesson plans follow the liturgical year, and incorporate games, stories and simple art projects. "Five year olds begin to understand the Mass vestments by coloring them, and learn about the Ro-

sary by making their own," Mrs. Cleary continued.

The program aims to develop sound attitudes toward God and religion at an early age. With a variety of modern techniques, it aims for integration of the pre-schoolers' daily life realities and religious experience.

A small mission effort was initiated, for example, with the children being encouraged to send pennies they'd earned to the China Beach Orphanage at Da Nang, Vietnam.

"Even little children can put off a present good to achieve something for the future," Mrs.

Cleary noted. They are encouraged to develop a spirit of sharing in some simple way, such as "it would be nice to save one of your cookies for daddy's lunch."

In only nine years, the Pre-School Religion Program has grown to include children in all 50 states and many foreign countries.

The heart of the program, according to Mrs. Cleary is to help the four and five year olds develop their personal knowledge and friendship for Christ. "to know and imitate Him during their impressionable years."



CHURCH BOUND PARENTS, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Ondocin, bring their pre-schoolers, Philipp, Jr. and Jeanmarie, to door of classroom where they are greeted by Mrs. Robert Cleary.



PAPER PLATE OVERLAY is used by this budding artist to learn from an original drawing.



COLORING CUT-OUT DOILIES gives youngsters a chance to develop their artistic bent, aided by Mrs. Robert Graves at right.



ILLUSTRATIONS and a skilled teacher, in this case, Miss Alice Boehm, capture attention of these tiny tots.



MARIAN SHRINE takes shape in simple fashion as children bring flowers to enhance statue of Our Lady.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS	41. Near-poet.	10. Education's basic three.	32. Warning signal.
1. Name-sakes of actor McCrea.	42. Nest-building fish.	14. Not any.	33. Belonging to the wife of Zeus.
6. Scrub.	43. Maturing factors.	18. Fire-place projections.	35. Asterisk.
11. Egyptian dancing girl.	44. Glides.	21. Sick.	37. Turkish regiment.
12. Agreements.		22. Stroke.	39. Born.
13. Describing an unreliable business venture.	DOWN	23. Sacred bull.	40. Dance step.
15. Lose color.	1. Part of Tel-Aviv.	24. British general of Zeus.	41. Rough lava.
16. Single unit.	2. Bulging jars.	25. Scientists' work-rooms.	
17. Exclamation.	3. Fresh water tortoise.	26. Entertainment.	
19. Roman pound.	4. Tagged.	27. Decade.	
20. Rule, as paper.	5. Timid.	28. Fly afloat.	
22. Back.	6. Backbone.	29. Noblemen.	
23. German river.	7. En-closure.		
24. Underground bud.	8. Alas!		
25. Coat fold.	9. Completely.		
27. Three-spots.			
28. Among.			
29. Aquatic mammal.			
30. Public vehicle.			
31. Place for ducks.			
32. Exclamation.			
34. Baseball position: abbe.			
35. Over-whelming amount.			
36. Valley.			
38. Being between poles.			



COLORFUL PICTURES convey message even to four and five year olds. Teacher is Mrs. Robert Cleary.

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