

## CCD Programs Geared to Future Growth

5,000 Members of Laity Now Trained as Catechists

By MONSIGNOR ALBERT H. SCHNACKY, Diocesan Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Among the signs of growth in the Church in the Rochester Diocese, one of the most promising has been the establishment and flourishing of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. The CCD, as it is popularly known, has contributed to the religious education of thousands of children and adults over the past 50 years.

The story of the early days is sketchy. There were a few programs in existence around the time of the first World War which pointed the way to the CCD, but the first real mark of its birth was the agreement made by then Bishop Thomas F. Hickey with the Rochester City School Board in 1920. This agreement made possible a program for "released-time" religious education of children attending public schools.

In 1935 Pope Pius XI issued a directive establishing the CCD as an official organization within the diocese. Msgr. John M. Duffy was named its director. During the administration of Msgr. Duffy, the CCD took on an organized form to provide religious education for Catholic youth in public schools.

During the war days however, Pope Pius XII issued a directive creating a separate, stronger centralization of CCD activities; Father George Vogt was named to head it. The directive created the post of Diocesan Director of CCD as a full-time position. The CCD office for the Diocese was established as a separate entity.

For the past 20 years, remarkable changes have been occurring. In the early years the programs were primarily centered on educating the elementary and high school student in both released-time and vacation school classes. In those days there were no trained lay catechists. The work was done by priests, nuns, seminarians and a few dedicated laymen.

Today more than 5,000 members of the laity have been trained as catechists. Today the adult is receiving the benefits of religious education as well as the child. Today the classroom has become the film theater, the open field, the rural and the urban slum, the livingroom in the suburb.

One of the greatest forces in the dynamic of the CCD is the band of the Mission Helpers of the Courier-Journal Diocesan Centennial, Nov. 22, 1968 Page 56A



Assumption School of Religion in Fairport is a pioneer institution for CCD instruction. Diocesan CCD planners predict that buildings like this will soon multiply providing day and evening use for parishes which do not have schools or for several parishes at once where the construction was shared cooperatively. As the quality and range of instruction improves larger numbers of public-schoolers are attracted to the programs. Construction of such centers as close as possible to the local public schools aids the efficiency of using released time.

the Sacred Heart. This community of Sisters, dedicated solely to the promotion of the CCD, first came to the diocese in 1952.

Indirectly and directly these holy women have been responsible for the growth of more than 25 catechetical centers, and a number of lay parish boards for education.

In 1966, Sister Marietta of the Mission Helpers and Father Daniel Holland joined us at the CCD office to create a total working staff of six.

We give service, not supervision, to the CCD teacher. At least 150 people a month come to the office to make use of what we have here: films, film-strips, tapes, visuals, texts.

Today the CCD can best be described as the Church teaching, the pilgrim people of God announcing the great news of life, freedom, victory that is to be found in allegiance to Jesus of Nazareth.

Today our Diocese may boast that 53,976 children in grades 1-12 are receiving the benefits of religious education through CCD; that 2,300 laymen and 590 priests, Sisters and seminarians are teaching.

The functions of the CCD office have been defined basically into six categories. Under the present structure it is the objective to encompass all age levels, pre-school through adult, in its endeavors; i.e., all except

parochial school students. The six categories are:

- Teacher training and development: to develop teachers who have had no prior experience, and to assist those who have been teaching to gain depth in subject matter and refinement and updating of techniques.
- Parent-Adult Formation: to develop adult education programs that can be used at various levels down to the individual parishes; and to prepare parent programs that will complement CCD grade and high school endeavors.
- Ecumenism: to further understanding among all Christians.
- Parish Systems — Development, Implementation, Coordination: to realize excellent religious educational programs for all in all parishes of the diocese.
- Communication: to build an awareness among laity and clergy of what religious edu-

cation is doing and why it is doing so; and to advise all persons involved of upcoming programs, new developments and materials, successful experiments, etc.

But the CCD is not oriented toward its past as much as toward the future.

Among existing programs which are expected to blossom in the years ahead is the Adult Education Program. Adult Education is one of the most important trends for us today. Without it the Church might find herself in exile, wandering in the desert.

It is basic to Christianity. To whom did Christ preach? In the early days of the Church, to whom did the Apostles go? And, have our teenagers rebelled because they have so few mature adults to whom they may turn?

It is a dream that the Adult Education Program will take several new turns. One example: instead of having AE at one parish, we could group five or six parishes, hold classes at a central location — and pay teachers enough to assure top-rate lectures.

If we established several centers, we then could offer cycle-courses. Under this plan, teachers would give a series of lectures at one place and then rotate to another, thus affording in-depth coverage of a single subject, and maximum new contact for the students.

We must discover and devise new means of expression in the Church for the children of today. The present Catholic practices are adult expressions of faith and intended to radult communication. We must continue to experiment to reach the minds and emotions of each age level. We must prepare now for the Christian Formation of "the people of God" of the Diocese of Rochester during the next 100 years.



Sister Joseph Marie of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, one of the Sisters at the Assumption School of Religion in Fairport, confers with Mrs. Eloise Wilkin, who took the teacher-training course at the School. The Mission Helpers established the teacher-training courses for the diocesan catechetical program.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM

LORETTA LAURER



LORETTA LAURER

School of Dressmaking and Design

Featuring French Fitting Techniques and Styling

• Beginners - Advanced Basic Pattern Fitted

• Creative Sewing of Dresses - Coats - Suits

5 Week Courses

Loretta Laurer, an outstanding designer in the Rochester area for many years and who established and maintained the only school of its kind in our city, congratulates the Diocese on this great occasion.

1087 HUDSON AVE.

342-3180

AS THE DIOCESE BEGINS ITS SECOND CENTURY WE ARE MOST PROUD TO EXTEND OUR BEST WISHES AND CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

PIEHLER PONTIAC CORP.

1560 LAKE AVE.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

RALPH PONTIAC INC.

626 W. MAIN ST.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

SCHOEN PONTIAC INC.

1177 FAIRPORT ROAD

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

PITTS PONTIAC INC.

1067 RIDGE ROAD

WEBSTER, N. Y.