

Religion Classes for God's 'Special Children'

By JOAN ZUMMO

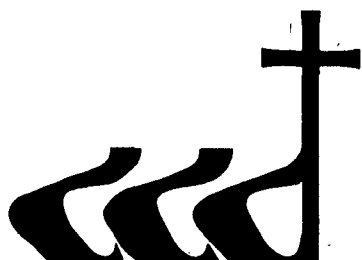
Exceptional children, the mentally retarded — they are known by many names, but perhaps the most appropriate is special children; these young people can and do handicapped, can and do know, love, and praise their God.

They must be special indeed to this Creator who has made them such that their love and worship of Him can remain always the simple, unquestioning total response of a loving child.

As with all children, however, they are not born with fully formed Christian attitudes, but rather their attitudes are the result of their life experiences. Formal religious training is as important a part of their experience as it is of all young Christians.

The Diocese of Rochester has a program for these chil-

Confrontation



den which, though quite new, is probably equal to or better in quality than any in the country. After a year of preliminary planning and another year of initiating the program, this year there are classes for about 40 children on Saturday mornings at four centers in different areas of the city. The centers are at St. Ambrose, St. Boniface, St. Charles Borromeo, and Holy Apostles churches. Each center is a relatively independent unit composed of students, teachers,

helpers, and an area administrator. The whole program is coordinated by Father Foster Rogers of Christ the King Parish. Father Rogers, with the assistance of Sister Mary Martin, who is responsible for content and method, organized and implemented the program.

The program also has greatly benefited from the assistance of Dr. Frank Barth, a psychologist who has given much time and knowledge to it.

The teachers are volunteers from throughout the city. They do not have a formal training period but are given basic ideas to guide them in developing person-to-person relationships with the children. They also have available a series of monthly workshops and lectures on pertinent topics.

The text used in all four centers is the standard "Come to the Father" series. This particular text (because of its

experiential emphasis for one thing) is easily and effectively adapted to this program. Also, it is a course that guides and instructs the teacher very thoroughly.

In general, these children are capable of, at least, first grade level understanding of their faith. Their attention span is quite short, however, so an idea must be presented briefly and simply in a variety of ways, using art, music, games, prayers, contemplation, and other activities.

Although the present program is an excellent one it is only a beginning. As needs become apparent, centers can be established in the suburbs and rural areas. As personnel become available the program can be expanded to include the emotionally disturbed child.

The Diocese wants every child, regardless of his ability, to receive the finest guidance in the formation of his Christian values. This program is an important part of that educational effort.

If you are interested in giving your time to this program, or if you would like more information about it, contact Father Rogers at Christ the King parish. If you have a child who would benefit from this program — the only requirement is that the child be enrolled in a public school — the program will direct you to the appropriate center.

Debater, 13, Wins Aquinas Scholarship

The speaker was sure of himself.

"Contrary to what many say, the Second Amendment does not guarantee the individual the right to bear arms." Responding to the argument that requiring a license for guns would violate the rights of individuals, the speaker stated, "It's insanity to believe that my civil rights are being violated by having to have a pistol permit."

For a minute you might have thought you were on the floor of Congress during a firearms legislation debate. But the scene was the stage of Aquinas Institute and the speaker, 13-year-old Charles Tierney, an eighth grader from St. John the Evangelist School on Humboldt Street.

Tierney spoke with such conviction that seven judges were unanimous in awarding him a full tuition scholarship to Aquinas for four years. Charles is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Tierney of 330 Beresford Road.

Some 24 students representing schools in Monroe County competed for the scholarship grants. Eight students were chosen finalists after delivering prepared speeches. Winners were chosen on the basis of a three minute extempore speech.

Second place was won by Jeff Parma, 13, of 71 Beechwood Drive, Gates, a student at St. Theodore School, and third place was awarded to Bejoy

John, 13, of 1218 Genesee St., who attends Our Lady of Good Counsel School. Both boys received four-year, half-tuition scholarships.

According to James Perry, director of speech at Aquinas, the competition is designed to discriminate sharply among the very best students in the area eighth grades who have ability to think critically and to apply what they have learned in an articulate manner with a special aptitude in public speaking.



New Church Progress

Construction of new St. Philip Neri Church, Clifford Avenue, is about half completed, with occupancy expected in spring. It replaces 29-year-old wooden structure destroyed Feb. 20, 1967, by fire which took the lives of Father George Weinmann, 77, and Sister Lillian Marie McLaughlin, 26, in their attempt to save Blessed Sacrament and other valuables. Father Charles Connell, pastor, says new structure will seat 550.

Bethlehem's Star Planetarium Show

The sky as it looked over Bethlehem 2,000 years ago is shown through Jan. 2 on the Strasenburgh Planetarium's Christmas feature.

Monday through Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday at 11 a.m., 2, 3, 4, and 8 p.m., and Sunday, 2, 3, 4, and 8 p.m.

"The Star of Christmas" will

Give her a gift she can't wait to exchange

Gift Certificate

Tuck one of our Gift Certificates in her stocking. She'll want to exchange it right away for a pair of the most fashionable, comfortable shoes in town—those from our Miracle Tread/Andiamo collection.

\$10.99 to \$15.99



miracle tread andiamo

FREE STORE SIDE PARKING

MIDLAND SHOPPER CREDIT

Savino's SHOE STORE 514 NORTH MAIN ST. across from Sears

OPEN EVERY NIGHT UNTIL CHRISTMAS

'Dare' Growing In Popularity

Requests for a videotape of the McQuaid-Jesuit television series broadcast weekly by TV Channel 10 have been received from stations in four states.

Titled "Dare," the program features talks and interviews by Father Albert P. Bartlett, SJ, rector, and follows the Sunday 11 p.m. news broadcast.

Requests for tapes have come from Dallas, Chicago, Baltimore and Oswego State College.

FOR PERFECT DIAPER SERVICE **Stork** BABY WASH 328-0770

Muxworthy's SKI HAUS HEAD SKIS THE SPOT WHERE SKIING STARTS 563 Titus Avenue ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14617 544-4490 Open Evenings Til 9

FRIDAY Is the DAY "OLSTEN" Girls Get Their PAY YES, pay day every Friday of the week you work plus recruitment and monthly bonuses — vacation pay too. Schedules to fit your convenience and never a fee to you. TYPISTS SECRETARIES KEYPUNCH OPERATORS DICTAPHONE TYPISTS ALL OFFICE SKILLS Daily Interviews 9-5 olsten temporary services 1203 TEMPLE BLDG 232-4070

give a great Canadian CANADIAN RICH & RARE Whisky \$5.49 THE FIFTH Available gift wrapped at no extra cost From Canada's oldest distiller

IMPORTED BY ASSOCIATED IMPORTERS, INC. BOTTLED IN THE U.S.A. BY GOODERHAM & WORTS, FLORIDA, 111 EIGHTY PROOF

JUDGE'S SALE! SALE! SALE! 1968 FORDS All low mileage with balance of NEW CAR WARRANTY

1968 MUSTANG BUCKET-SEAT HARDTOP Discounted \$2195 To Lime-gold finish. Cruisomatic transmission, radio, heater and defrosters/6 cylinder engine.

1968 GALAXIE-500 TWO-DOOR HARDTOP Discounted \$2395 To V8 Engine. Cruisomatic transmission, radio, heater and defrosters. Power steering. Whitewall tires and wheel covers.

1968 TORINO GT FASTBACK TWO-DOOR HARDTOP \$2245 Big 390-V8 engine with 4-speed manual transmission. Radio, heater and defrosters. Wide-oval whitewall tires. Bucket seats. Many extras.

1968 COUNTRY SEDAN 10-PASS. STATION WAGON Discounted To \$2695 Big 390-V8 engine. Power steering/Power brakes. Cruisomatic transmission, radio, heater and defrosters.

Dozens of other 1968 Fords to select from. All similarly discounted for immediate sale!

Judge's 81 LAKE AVE. ROCHESTER'S LARGEST FORD DEALER