

CCD Crisis Calls for New Answers

By JOAN EUMMO

Much has been written recently about the crisis which the parochial schools now face. Although this is a problem of no small magnitude and one with a variety of ramifications there is a much greater—both in scope and importance—educational crisis confronting the Church today. This crisis involves not only that relatively small segment of the Church's population between the ages of 5 and 18, but affects all members of the Church of all ages.

Under the direction of the National Conference of Diocesan Directors and the CCD National Center a survey was conducted during 1968. This survey concentrated on determining attitudes regarding value and effectiveness of religious education programs rather than accumulating detailed statistics. The response was extremely high and indicates the need felt for such studies.

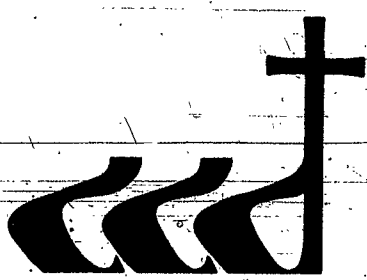
The survey itself consisted of a limited number of personal interviews plus two questionnaires, the first of which was sent to 145 Diocesan Directors and the second of which was distributed by the directors to several thousand of their CCD associates—clergy, religious, and laymen. The findings of this survey are significant not only in terms of the national CCD picture, but according to Magr. Albert Schnacky, diocesan CCD director and Fr. Daniel Holland, associate director, they accurately reflect the problems and needs of CCD in the Diocese of Rochester.

Two of the needs expressed were mentioned so often and are so fundamental to the other problems that the survey report made special note of them. One need is the necessity of defining objectives and establishing goals for religious education. The survey made it clear that there is widespread vagueness and uncertainty as to what religious education is all about.

A second very urgent need, and one stressed by Magr. Schnacky and Father Holland, is for greatly improved professional training at every level of religious education. Not only did many directors feel that their own or their staff's preparation was inadequate, but also a large majority of those responding to the second questionnaire felt that teachers are not adequately trained and prepared for their responsibilities. One confirmation of the facts may

Confrontation

CCD in Action



be that a very large percentage of those polled felt that present programs were ineffective or unsatisfactory.

Finances were another area of concern. In general, a need was felt for more funds, resources, and help in budget formulating. Many replies indicated lack of communication between diocesan and local levels. Per capita expenditure varied much from diocese to diocese. Also, many directors felt there was a decided imbalance between funds available for Catholic schools and those available for programs outside the parochial school system.

As might be expected, the survey indicated that the main emphasis in CCD is still the school age child. Although there are a number of adult education programs, and specialized programs such as those for preschoolers and exceptional children, in general CCD is still child-centered. The survey did indicate, however, overwhelming support of the idea of a more adult-oriented catechesis.

The general tone of the report is one of serious and immediate need. It is a crisis—a quieter and less publicized crisis than some and one

that we tend to ignore because it has been with us for such a long time. We have now reached a turning point, however, a time for decision. If that ongoing formation in Christ that should characterize religious education is to be nurtured in all our people—adults as well as children—we must not suffocate ourselves with narrow and outdated solutions, but rather we must be visionaries who turn our visions into well reasoned and well executed actions.



Two Redemptorists Leave Diocese

Two Redemptorist priests serving in the diocese were assigned this week to new duties.

Father William Heanue of Notre Dame Retreat House, in Canandaigua, was transferred to St. Boniface parish in Philadelphia. His successor is Father Louis Olive, 31, from the vice province of San Juan, P.R.

Father Kenneth Kuhn of St. Joseph's, in midtown Rochester, was posted to Immaculate Conception in South Bronx, to work with its Spanish-speaking community. Taking his place here is Father Joseph Wall, who has had a rural parish at Esopus for the past 20 years. Father Wall earlier had spent 10 years as a priest in Puerto Rico.

CURSILLO PLANNED

The fourth men's cursillo will be held Feb. 20-23 at McQuaid Jesuit High School. Information and application blanks may be obtained from Jack Brooks, 368 Holybrook, 359-1287.

"Showtime '69" Scheduled at Kearney

Mrs. Connie Cerame leads Mrs. Gloria Young and Mr. George Scheck in a rehearsal for "Showtime '69", a musical revue produced by the parents' club of Bishop Kearney High School. The purpose of the show is to build up the Tuition Emergency Fund, so that any child whose supporting parent dies will be assured of completing high school at Bishop Kearney. Over one hundred parents are participating in the show which is scheduled Jan. 30 through Feb. 2. All seats are reserved.



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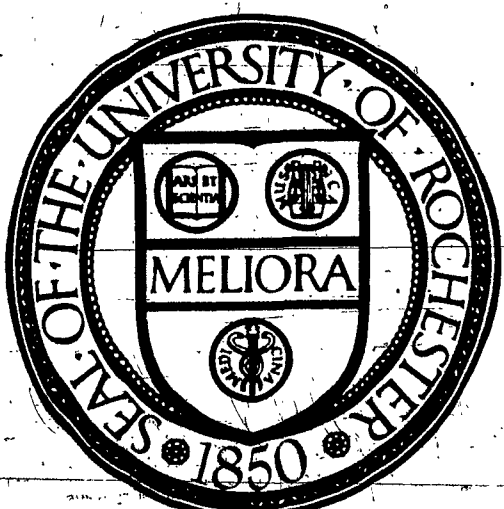


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Pries

(Continued from page 1) don't have money yet. Some 40 workers are the "co-op" is a success will be returned to the other similar uses. The producing approximately made bricks per week in a ready market for

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"At the moment ve tion to move the peopl ness ventures to fig ment. But the wives makers are talking ab chicken-farm on a b the same land."

The people are incir ful, Father continued, cal clinic the priests h lish in a hut next T There is no hospital i

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