

Choosing Texts For Fall

By JOAN ZUMMO

There is a very great temptation at this time of year on the part of CCD teachers and administrators to breathe a deep and weary sigh of relief and turn their thoughts and efforts away from the realities of texts, lesson plans, and class schedules. However, if one has been involved long enough to be breathing a sigh of relief, one has been involved long enough to know that the respite will be short lived indeed, for sandwiched among the vacations, swimming lessons, trips to camp, sunburns, and sand boxes must come planning and preparation for next year's classes.

One phase of this planning is the selection of a text. As emphasized in Confrontation last week, although there are other factors to consider in presenting the message of Christ, the text used is the starting point for teachers and establishes the general content of a given course.

In order to aid in the selection of text books, Confrontation will during the next few weeks present a general outline and description of some of the series available.

In order to choose the text that will be most useful for your particular program it is necessary to first understand and evaluate the characteristics and needs of your particular parish.

Consider all age groups from preschool to adult and all aspects of parish life — home and community involvement as well as classes for children.

Which areas can be consolidated? For example, a need for adult education coupled with a drop in attendance in religion classes for youngsters after they have received First Eucharist and First Penance could be met by a program and a text geared to parent education and participation.

In choosing a text it is also important to consider the teachers in your particular parish. What are their preferences, abilities and inclinations?

Questions? A text that relies heavily on the imagination and innovations of the teacher may not be used to the fullest by teachers that "go by the book" or require more detailed and specific suggestions for lesson plans. Can the teachers relate to and effectively use the audio work or associated audio visual aids of a particular series? These important aspects of a particular course are useless if they are not used effectively.

In addition, consider also the financial and material assets available to you. What physical set-up does it require to successfully implement a particular program?

Next, investigate the variety of texts available. There are now, especially at the elementary grades level, a good number of texts marketed. The aims and resources of your parish are the final and most important guides to your final choice. Your program must be geared to your situation.

When considering the various texts, a visit to the CCD Office can be very beneficial. The office has on display samples of all the major texts and also a number of associated catechetical material. They can also supply information and advice regarding the

various publishers and their publications.

It is also a good idea to write to individual publishers. Many of them will send you free samples of their texts and they will all supply you with lists of and brochures on their publications.

Next week, this column will list the names, addresses, and catechetical publications of the major publishing companies.

Nazareth Offers Pre-College Art

A two-week art course for students who have completed the junior or senior year of high school will be offered by Nazareth College beginning June 29.

It is designed for students considering an art major in college or those seeking training not available in their schools.

Open to both boys and girls, the all-day, non-credit program will use the facilities of the Art Center. Registration forms are available through the Art Department at Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue.

Baltimore Views \$100,000 Grant

Baltimore — (NC) — Results of a \$100,000 grant from the Baltimore archdiocese to 13 poverty groups represent a mixture of achievement, failure, surprises and some public embarrassment.

Last summer, the archdiocese gave the money to the 13 groups with "no strings attached" as part of an experiment aimed at helping community groups develop leadership and decision-making skills.

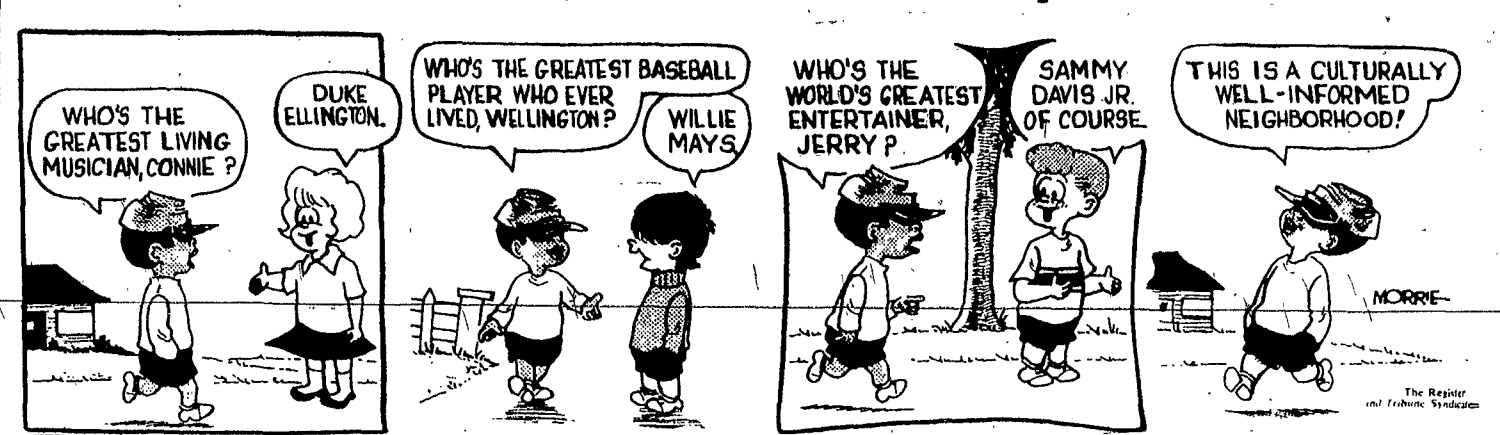
The groups used the money in divergent ways — one group established a food cooperative, while another donated its funds to the Black Panthers.

Father Henry J. Offer, S.S.J., director of the archdiocesan Urban Commission, explained that some of an \$8,000 grant, originally given for a project in the Fourth Ward of Annapolis, was turned over to the Panthers when the project folded. This was done, he said, without the knowledge of the archdiocese.

Father Offer said: "We certainly wouldn't have funded the Black Panthers. The question is, what can you do about it now?"

The transfer of funds provoked considerable controversy in the Baltimore community,

WEE PALS



EXTERIOR and INTERIOR PAINTING and PAPERHANGING. Personalized Service Free Estimates 458-6424. Other projects have gotten less attention but have achieved remarkable progress. A \$1,000 grant to two Woodstock seminarians allowed them to buy a car to commute to North-east Baltimore where they organized a campaign against blockbusting and high real estate prices. In Oella, Md., an antipoverty group used its \$3,500 to help open a food cooperative which now averages \$100 worth of sales daily. A \$13,000 grant to the Civic Interest Group in Baltimore was used to help the organization expand its efforts to secure Negro rights.

BOOKS

Summer Breezes

Tomorrow's Christian, by Ed. Marciniak, (Pflaum; \$5.95). Outlines the strategies by which Christians can make Christianity work in every aspect of modern life.

Do You Believe in God?, by Karl Rahner, (Newman; \$3.95). The culmination of the author's thinking on man as one who attains realization of himself through his ability to be open to all beings, and who can be open, ultimately, to the fullness of being, God.

There is a Season, by Eugene Geissler, (Ave Maria; \$4.50). A book of universal human experience on the level of every man.

Elizabeth's Greeting, by Rosemary Haughton, (Lippincott; \$5.95). A first novel for adults about the life of St. Elizabeth of Hungary "heavy with analogies to our current predicaments."

The Crisis of Faith: A Protestant Witness in Rome, by Frederick Sontag, (Doubleday; \$5.95). The main thesis is that the Church cannot settle the problems which have been induced in the process of redefining its pastoral functions until it officially restates its basic doctrinal foundations in clear, powerful and contemporary terms.

The Good News for Children, by Rene Berthier, (Pflaum; \$3.95). Selections include the creation and the principal events in the life of Christ. Included are illustrations and meditations.

Uncovered Feelings, by Hubert Brokering, (Fortress; \$3.95). A collection of vignettes, meditations and photographs designed as an aid to prayer.

Just For Children Madeline, by Ludwig Bemelmans, (Viking; \$3.50). "In an old house in Paris/ that was covered with vines/

lived twelve little girls/ in two straight lines/ the smallest one was Madeline."

The Five Chinese Brothers, by Claire Huchet Bishop, illustrated by Kurt Wiese, (Coward; \$2.95). An old folk tale retold and illustrated with amusing drawings.

Just So Stories, by Rudyard Kipling, illustrated by Nicholas, (Doubleday; \$3.95). Stories good for reading aloud and for independent reading by the child — especially attractive edition.

Rabbit Hill, by Robert Lawson, (Viking; \$3.50). The new folks share their garden with the animals on Rabbit Hill.

The Wind in the Willows, by Kenneth Grahame, illustrated by Ernest H. Shepard, (Scribner; \$2.95). A fine choice for reading aloud.

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Cardinal Assails Disruptions of Church Services

St. Louis — (RNS) — John Cardinal Carberry warned here that the Archdiocese of St. Louis will neither condone planned interferences with church services nor tolerate blasphemous threats against the Most Blessed Sacrament.

He outlined archdiocesan policy on recent church disturbances in a pastoral issued a week after demonstrators, mostly black, interrupted a Mass at St. Louis Cathedral to hearken demands for greater financial support of black projects and stronger civil rights action by the archdiocese.

During the demonstration, a leader of the group — called ACTION — announced that future protests would "take on various forms of uniqueness, such as spitting in the communion cup."

Cardinal Carberry also said that "the overwhelming majority of black people in our community cherish... the right of freedom to worship free from all external interference."

"Public statements make it clear," he continued, "that civic officials and prominent national and local leaders of the black community resent the tactics and threats of these small groups against our churches and those of other faiths."

Although the pastoral contained a strong warning against threats made by the militants and stated that churches would be prepared to take legal action if demonstrators "violate civil laws," it also reaffirmed "the continuing commitment of the Archdiocese of St. Louis to the eradication of all racial discrimination."

The cardinal also called on all Catholics "for patience and tolerance on those occasions when churches might be visited by groups seeking to make statements."

Adult Club Picnic

The Rochester Catholic Adult Club will picnic Sunday afternoon, June 22, in Stony Brook Park. Reservations are being taken at 458-5236.

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