

CCD Highlight: Participation by Laity

(Continued from Page 1A)

was urged last year by Msgr. James C. Donohue, director of the Department of Education of the United States Catholic Conference:

- Full Catholic School education in the inner cities of the nation.
- Adequate religious education for all Catholics.
- A small Catholic school system, where economically feasible.

CCD, according to Msgr. Donohue, should be the number two priority, number one being a massive commitment by the Catholic Church to the ghetto.

Part of the structural trends is the reallocation of money and full-time personnel to CCD. More than 30 persons are now employed full-time in the field of religious education by various parishes in the diocese.

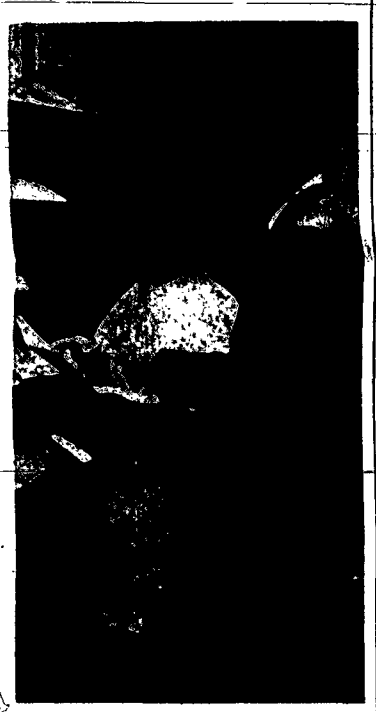
A stated goal of CCD Rochester is to have a full-time CCD director in every parish by 1972.

The director's task is to organize and coordinate CCD programs; establish a parish resource center; conduct training sessions for teachers; coordinate parent programs; establish new patterns of adult religious education; and provide for the more effective administration of the parish school of religion.

An adult Catholic walking into today's CCD's religion class would not see anything of what he remembers of his "catechism class." For example, a group of youngsters may be working together on a collage to express their understanding of some doctrine, and this collage may later be part of a sermon at the celebration of Mass. "Project-oriented" is the educational term for this type of learning in the elementary CCD classroom.

High schoolers follow the "faith-in-action" method through social involvement projects, intensive prayer sessions, formal lectures and critiquing movies.

And adults are being taught through every medium from the coffee-break through film-discussion programs in the parish hall.



Mrs. Ronald Gledhill and Mr. Raymond Weidmann examine current CCD religion texts at the CCD office display.

This flurry of new techniques reflects the fact that no one way of doing things is the right way for all people differ, so programs of religious education differ.

A whole new framework is the basis of today's religion class. The Council reaffirmed the Church's faith in Jesus living now; and so, today's religion class offers the opportunity to discover God's presence in the world now and to provide settings in which a young person can learn to make an adequate response to the God he discovers acting and living now. We hope the student will acquire the life-long habit of discovering and responding to God living and now.

Parents are finally being acknowledged as the primary educators of their own children; and the best CCD classes de-

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Mrs. Ruth Lawlor, center, Lay Religious Education Coordinator of Nativity Parish, Brockport, reviews records with Father Edward J. Lintz, Ph.D. (left) and Father James Burke. Mrs. Lawlor is the first lay person to hold this position in the Diocese of Rochester.

mand active parent involvement in the teaching-learning process. St. Paul's preaching of it has risen up Greater numbers of letters to the early Christians at Rome makes this doctrine a central theme.

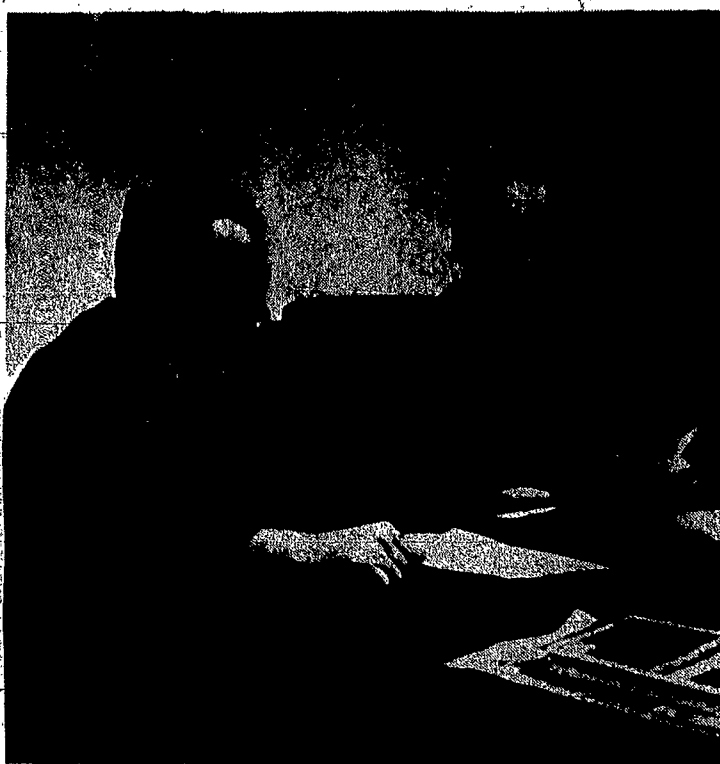
Emphasis in today's religion classes highlights the Spirit of God, not the law of God. A Catholic's relationship with God can only be realized through that Spirit, not through mere observance of laws. This long-

forgotten doctrine is as old as flood the parish. New programs by the second annual Ecumenical Vacation Church School which ended last month.

Some would say that an active militancy characterizes the spirit of dedicated CCD people. We say: if so, let us have more signs of progress abound. Ideas of it!

and first-grade children were held at Greece Baptist Church, and those for second through fifth grades were held at St. John's Church.

Its purpose was described as helping the children to "become aware of God's presence and His continuing communication with man through the Bible, creation and community experience."



Mr. Thomas McGarry, left, Chairman of the CCD Office Lay Board, reviews agenda with Msgr. Albert H. Schnacky, Diocesan CCD director.

Ecumenical School Drew 376

A total of 376 children attended the second annual Ecumenical Vacation Church School which ended last month. Sessions for pre-kindergarten

Catholics Also Save By Keeping Schools

Cincinnati — (RNS) — Roman Catholics themselves would be hard hit with increased taxes if they were suddenly to close all their parochial schools, Bishop Ernest J. Primeau predicted.

Termed the closing of all Catholic schools "a rather extreme measure" which would be "an imposition on the community," the Manchester, N.H. prelate maintained that the action would be a burden on Catholics, particularly in the urban areas where they make up about 40 per cent of the population.

"This is one thing the Catholic people have failed to realize, that by keeping their Catholic schools they are saving money, even when paying double. What they pay for Catholic schools is less than what the increased taxes would be," he added.

Along these same lines, Bishop Primeau stated that public funds are the only way parochial schools can continue to operate.

These comments were made by the bishop in a copyrighted interview in the August issue of the *St. Anthony Messenger*.

Bishop Primeau suggested that the government, whether it be local, state or federal, give to the parochial schools half of the amount it costs to educate a child in the public schools.

"This method of paying a percentage of the public school costs to private schools would leave the plan flexible, so as education costs go up, the private schools will be benefited proportionately," he pointed out.

In other areas of Catholic education, Bishop Primeau discussed a wide variety of topics. These included:

• Keep the lower grades and close the high schools. "I often wonder if the Catholic high school has that much effect on teenagers. If the parents can't handle them, how can the schools?"

• Lay teachers and administrators: "One problem we are going to have is to convince Catholic parents that we can have Catholic education without having Sisters or priests as teachers in the classroom. For many people this is a real hang up."

• Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program: "Nobody... is happy with the results... Up to about the sixth grade we do a pretty good job — though it could still be improved. From then on we have a major problem. The children themselves are not interested, especially in the latter years of high school. We have to find a way to instill a desire for continued religious education."

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