

# Education, Liturgy Changes Mark Bishop's First Year

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

Many changes, particularly in liturgy and religious education, have marked Bishop Hogan's first year as seventh Bishop of the Rochester Diocese.

On Saturday, Nov. 28, it will be a year since the Bishop was ordained and installed in ceremonies at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Two weeks later in the same cathedral Bishop Hogan ordained five Basilians to the priesthood, the first of several ordinations he has performed since then.

During the last 12 months the Bishop has faced several critical situations, in which he exhibited characteristic kindness and understanding, courage and firmness.

Receiving most attention and discussion has been the crisis in Catholic education in the diocese — a field in which the Bishop has a noteworthy background as teacher and administrator.

Highlighting action in education have been the reorganization of the diocesan education department, continuing changes

in seminarian training, a diocesan wide survey and report, and the appointment of a diocesan educational Task Force which currently is readying recommendations. The year also saw the closing of King's Preparatory High School in Rochester and Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn.

Liturgical changes included establishment of the Saturday Mass privilege to fulfill Sunday obligation, the distribution of Holy Communion by selected nuns and laity, and new guidelines on First Communion and First Confession. There also has been establishment of a diocesan Vocation Council and a broadening of ecumenical liturgy and meetings.

Bishop Hogan has logged many travel miles since his installation. He has visited parishes in all parts of the diocese, and last spring he visited missions being served by diocesan priests and nuns in Bolivia, Brazil and Chile.

Meetings to help establish priorities in church and parish life also have featured the last year, particularly meetings held

around the diocese by the Priests' Council or Senate.

Early in his new office the Bishop recognized what he termed "a crisis in communication," and he set up a diocesan Office of Communications. He has tried to reach people throughout the diocese through the *Courier-Journal* and a network of radio stations around the diocese. The Bishop made a strong appeal to clergy and laity for increased circulation of the diocesan newspaper so he could get his messages to as many persons as possible.

Bishop Hogan has celebrated many Masses in parishes. Masses attracting communitywide attention included a first Mass in Rochester's National Guard Armory, the annual Lawyers' Mass at St. Joseph's Church on Franklin Street and an outdoor Mass for Peace in Rochester's Highland Park Bowl.

Another "first" for the diocese came last month with publication of a financial report.

Problems of the poor and needy occupied the continuing attention of clergy and laity, and particularly the diocesan



Bishop Hogan confirming adults at Sacred Heart Cathedral

Office of Human Development. Last Sunday parishioners throughout the diocese contributed to a special collection for funds for the Campaign for Human Development, a drive being conducted in all dioceses of the nation.

Aim of the campaign is to finance self-help projects on diocesan and national levels and

to set up an educational and information program to spot particular poverty problems.

Bishop Hogan has had a busy time in his first year. He maintains a calm attitude, however, based on a strong dependence on the Holy Spirit and a philosophy of not worrying about tomorrow but taking each day as it comes.

## Parishes Tailor CCD Program to Own Needs

Nearly 56,000 children are enrolled in CCD classes in this diocese. In this last of a five-part series on the goals and problems being faced by the new Religious Education-CCD Department, researcher Cecilia Viggo describes three kinds of parish programs successfully reaching public schoolers.

By CECELIA VIGGO

If you publicly compared CCD parish organizations to a Beethoven sonata, people would assume you were either Leonard Bernstein, or stark raving mad.

Certainly sonatas and CCD share no obvious characteristics. However, the way a sonata is put together might offer a good way to describe how CCD works in each parish.

A sonata consists of a major melody or theme which recurs throughout the various musical movements of the piece. Building on the theme, but different from it, are variations in different keys and forms. In looking at CCD parish organizations, one can find the same kind of "orchestration."

Most parishes organize their CCD classes for elementary and high school students along the same lines and deal with identical problems from parish to parish.

But each parish must also deal with those factors—geogra-

phical, historical, demographic — that constitute its particular identity. So each parish must develop a CCD program which possesses its own personal, particular variations on the basic CCD organizational "theme".

This article will consider CCD in three parishes: St. John the Evangelist Church of Spencerport, provides us with the "theme"; its CCD organization and problems seemed typical of the majority of parishes in this diocese. St. Monica's, a long-established city parish, and St. Christopher's in Chili, a brand new suburban parish, supply us with a view of the kinds of innovation and variation CCD is subject to on the parish level.

Father Albert Cason, assistant pastor of St. John's, stated that the parish "grew along with the village of Spencerport." Most of the 700 younger families have recently moved into the new housing developments around the village.

St. John's parochial school educates about 270 children, but Father Cason concedes that almost three of four of the parish children attend public schools.

CCD grades one through six accommodate 300 children; there are 100 in the CCD junior high school program (grades 7, 8 and 9) and 92 in CCD high school classes.

Mrs. Robert Casey, St. John's principal of the elementary division of CCD, explained that grades one through six meet for an hour and a quarter every Saturday morning. Morning classes run in double session, with one section of children attending from 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., and the other from 10:45 to noon.

Grades seven through twelve meet on Sunday evenings. Tenth, eleventh and twelfth graders meet in the homes of six teacher-couples in the parish.

High school students are involved in a more discussion-oriented program, and use the Argus "Choose Life" program, a series of pamphlets written for and about young people and designed as an aid to discussion about religious and ethical issues.

Father Cason comments that one of his biggest headaches concerns "getting adequate teacher recruitment and training."

"The time schedule of the suburbanite is pretty tight," he said. "By asking parishioners to teach, you are demanding a sizeable portion of their free time in teaching the class itself, taking the CCD teacher training course, and attending faculty meetings."

Since CCD takes quite a bit of time, often volunteers must quit after a few years teaching, he added. Volunteers leave to take care of a new baby, or to get a job to ease the family budget.

Reaching the young people is another concern of Father Cason. Like most priests he finds that many teenagers are indifferent to religious education because "what we give them doesn't really turn them on."

He finds existing religious texts for young people inadequate. "I don't feel that anyone has a text for senior high school that really meets the needs of kids of this age," he says.

But the multi-media approach of the Argus series, its use of colorful booklets and awareness of television and films, is in the right direction he thinks.

Father Elmer McDonald, of St. Christopher's Church in

Chili, is pastor of a rapidly growing parish only two years old.

The parish serves about 500 families and has no parochial school.

Since St. Christopher's is a new community, and since its members are predominately young families, it has been able to secure, right from its onset, much participation.

Father McDonald calls it "a people parish", where most of the Church's needs (secretarial work, cleaning church and rectory, teaching religion) are met by members of the congregation. It has a salaried religious education coordinator, Sister Elizabeth Hughes.

Another factor unique to St. Christopher's is the professional coloring of its membership. A great many teachers and professional educators belong to the parish, and are active in parish life. Many of the CCD volunteers, for example are teachers in the public and parochial school systems.

St. Christopher has 304 children in grades one through five of the CCD program meeting in double sessions on Saturday mornings; the 123 junior high and 102 high school students meet every other Sunday evening.

One innovation coming is a parish education board, whose membership would include concerned parents and experienced educators in the parish.

The board would seek out the concerns and opinions of parents, informed about the present CCD program, and would create a religious education syllabus that would adequately represent their wishes.

"The people here have ideas about what their children should learn," Sister Elizabeth insists, and she feels that they should be involved in parish decision-making about religious education.

Father Walter Hanss directs the CCD program at St. Monica's parish. St. Monica's is located in what sociologists call an area in transition; the old ethnic neighborhoods are gradually dying out, and many black residents are moving in.

Father Hanss comments that "49% of our congregation is over 70 years old" and reports

a declining number of children in the parish.

Mrs. Dennis Coneheady, principal of St. Monica's elementary division, reports that 75 children are presently enrolled in the CCD grade school program. This number shows a marked decline in children from last year, probably the result of families moving out of the area.

The same decline has taken place in St. Monica's parochial school, whose onetime enrollment of 1150 students has dwindled to around 450.

Thus, Father Hanss does not face the problems of most suburban pastors, for the potential of his CCD enrollment is not growing, but declining.

Father Hanss feels a responsibility to the adolescents around St. Monica's, including those who are not practicing Catholics, attend public high schools, and live the rough life of a city teenager.

In an effort to reach them, Father Hanss replaced last year's weekly discussion sessions for high school students with a monthly day-long program for youth.

One Sunday a month, young people meet for the afternoon and evening. Their discussion sessions, are punctuated by the celebration of Mass, supper, and a film, and conclude with another form of liturgical celebration.

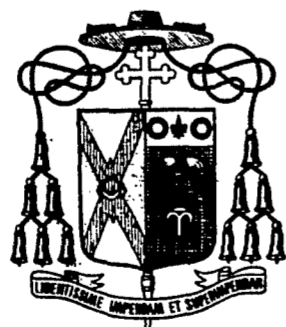
Last month's session attracted about 40 teens, many of whom, Father comments, "do not come to Church at all," and "did not attend last year's weekly discussion classes."

"The overall impact of one day a month is more valuable than four weekly one-hour sessions," he believes.

### Help the Poor

All of us should be concerned about those in need every day of the year; Christmas calls us to be even more generous. More than 500 families will call upon us for food, toys or clothing. May we ask you to help the poor? Please send donations to Catholic Charities Christmas Fund, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

## Diocesan Appointments



Father John Quinn, to chaplain, Campus Ministry, State University College of Arts and Sciences, Brockport, from St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester.

Father Ronald Harley, to assistant pastor, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester, from St. Mary, Elmira.

Father Michael Daly, granted leave of absence.

Father Joseph M. Sasso, granted leave of absence.