

## CCD in the City Seen As 'Preventive Medicine'

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The repercussions of the migration to the suburbs that began a generation ago are being felt more and more today.

As young professionals reach a higher income level they move out of the city, leaving behind them senior citizens and lower income people to support the city.

Since industry and stores also move out, many old, prosperous sections become neglected and the population within the city begins to shift out of decayed neighborhoods, settling into more prosperous areas with the help (or harm) of urban renewal.

New housing for the elderly and low income people forces people who ordinarily would not choose to mix, into the same neighborhoods. And adjustment to this abrupt change in day-to-day living is often frustrated by long standing, unfounded hostilities.

Steve Ward, the new Confraternity of Christian Doctrine coordinator at Holy Cross Parish, in Charlotte, feels that it is the Church's place to help people adjust to the inevitable neighborhood changes which are the natural result of the migration from cities to suburbs, and can't be undone.

Ward, a seminarian and 1971 graduate of St. John Fisher College, feels very strongly that the whole idea of parish religious education is total involvement.

His plan of action is personal contact, "to educate people to a kind of give and take type community. As neighborhoods change we must help the people through it. Somewhere the church must take a stand and that is my job, to educate people to changes and help them accept them."

Holy Cross is an old parish. Of its 6,000 parishioners about 1,300 are school age children, and most of the rest are middle age and older.

His philosophy is to respond to neighborhood changes now. "We must get into preventive urban medicine; no longer does the band-aid approach work," he explained.

Ward says his hardest jobs so far have been learning his duties and organizing his time. His duties include administering the CCD program at Holy Cross which includes the preparation of each child in the parish for the sacraments and involves the parents. He must also develop a program for the elderly and the pre-school era, and in addition, serve on the School Board.

Ward is one of 67 paid CCD co-ordinators in the diocese. The program of professional paid staff began three years ago and has grown with each year as a result of regionalism, plus it gets more lay involvement in the Church.

Helping in the Holy Cross, CCD work are Mary Ann DeMartino who is principal of the high school CCD program, and Sally Stelljes who is principal of the elementary CCD program. "They know the parish and neighborhood and that is a big help," he said. Men and women of the parish volunteer and students from Becket Hall and St. Bernard's teach, too.

Emphasis of the CCD program is on making the child aware and alive as a person. The classes meet for an hour, on a schedule related to city bus runs.

"We must be flexible if we are to effect anything," Ward said.



On the lap of Sister Jean Malvaso, SSJ, is the book around which the conference was built, 'Schools Without Failure,' by Dr. William Glasser.

## Rochester Teachers Study

# Schools Without Failure

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Rochester's public and parochial school faculties are trying to learn how to remove failure from the curriculum.

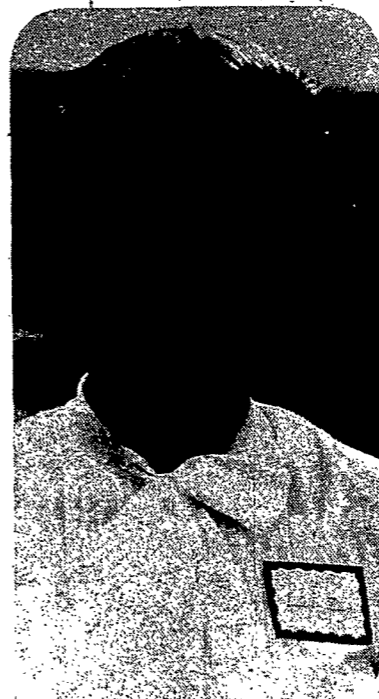
Principals, teachers and social workers gathered at Immaculate Conception School, Nov. 15-17 to hear about a success-oriented educational system.

The mental health staffs of both systems became interested in Dr. William Glasser's philosophy of education from his book, Schools Without Failure, and worked cooperatively to bring his staff of professionals to Rochester.

Dr. Glasser is a clinical psychiatrist and physician in Los Angeles who has worked with young people in all situations ranging from public schools to correctional institutions.

He created the Educator Training Center to research ideas and develop methods for combatting school failures. After three years of work its staff of professional educators developed a practical in-service program which they say any elementary school can use to eliminate failure.

Emphasis of the program is on involvement, on developing effective communication among staff members through seminars and with students through an



ELIZABETH MAHONEY

open-ended type of class meeting.

Principals and teachers work as a unit, since its main aim in the introductory session, is looking for a positive personal philosophy of education.

After one day of films showing actual classes, lectures by Elizabeth Mahoney, the trainer from Dr. Glasser's center, and general discussion, the teachers and principals had varying reactions.

Ross Vasbinder, principal of School 38, was not very optimistic. He predicted that the big hurdle would be getting teachers to feel comfortable with a looser structure. He foresees a year of groping in the dark and thinks it will be a long time before this loosening can be accomplished.

Giving a teacher's point of view on the possibility of eliminating discipline as a major problem in school, and establishing success oriented education as the new priority, Robert Renkens, fifth grade teacher at School 38 admitted that he sees more problems with the faculty than with students.

"Teachers make judgments on students and on other teachers," he said. "Shifting to a non-judgment role is going to be hard."

Discussing the ego-development side of the new concept, Mrs. Florence Dixon, who teaches the modified first grade at St. Bridget's, said the pupils don't get enough of that at "home."

Betty Zangle, school social worker at Holy Redeemer, feels that this new approach to education is more democratic. "We respect each other's opinions and want to share them. We

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STEVE WARD

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## Sisters Council to Support HD Drive

The 1960s were characterized by riots and fruitless rhetoric, but the 70s seem to be turning into a period of organizing for effective action. Following this trend of organizing are religious women.

The National Assembly of Women Religious was organized in late 1968 and is based in Chicago.

Sister Elizabeth Anne Le Valley, member of the faculty of Nazareth Academy, represented the Rochester Diocese Sisters Council at the Eastern region's meeting and characterized NAWR as: "a grass roots type group; any woman religi-

ous in the U.S. can be a member."

Last year, 7,000 nuns from 10 regions of the U.S. were listed as members. The purpose is to help areas, and communities, of nuns get organized by meeting and sharing ideas of many individuals.

Sister Elizabeth Anne met with 40 delegates from the 17 dioceses which make up the Eastern Region of NAWR, at the Dominican Convent in Spar-kill, N.Y.

The conference was called to evaluate the efforts of NAWR women in the eastern areas and plan what they can do better

to serve human needs. It was decided that they would direct their efforts to support the Bishops' Campaign for Human Development.

In the Rochester diocese, this will take shape through the work of the social concerns committee of the Sisters Council.

Sister Barbara Hance of Trenton, N.J. and Sister Elizabeth Dowd of Springfield, Mass., were co-chairmen of the meeting. The delegates discussed future meetings, workshops and projections toward subregional interaction and toward the national convention in Minneapolis in April.