

# Christian Education Week

My dear People,

September 17-21 is Christian Education Week. Such a time is set aside each year to recall to our minds the true meaning of Christian Education and what steps are being taken constantly to improve its quality.

Christian Education, according to Vatican Council, aims principally at enabling the baptized person (1) to mature in the Christian faith; (2) to upbuild the Christian community; and (3) to give witness to the hope that is in him, thus promoting the Christian transformation of the world (Christian Education, Art. 2).

Although Christian Education is a lifelong process, addressing itself to all persons, one phase which pertains to the education of children — the Catholic school system — is currently under attack. That is why we are emphasizing in this centerfold this specific problem with the hope of stimulating thought regarding possible solutions.

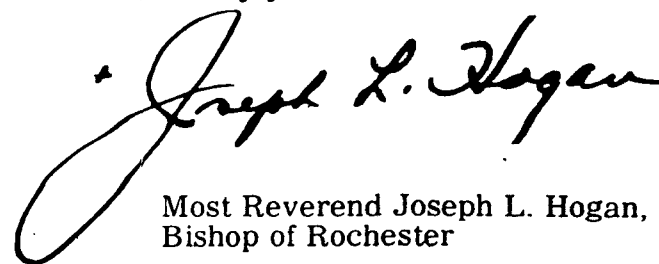
"Catholics," Virgil Blum, well-known educator, has so aptly remarked, "have never engaged in the normal democratic processes through which, in America, minority groups win for them-

selves and their fellow-citizens the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights."

In these days of conformity we need, more than ever, diversity in education. In these days of ever-growing impersonal materialism, we need to preserve an educational system that emphasizes moral, religious, and spiritual values.

May this coming year of renewal be one in which all will grow in wisdom and grace.

Devotedly yours in Christ,



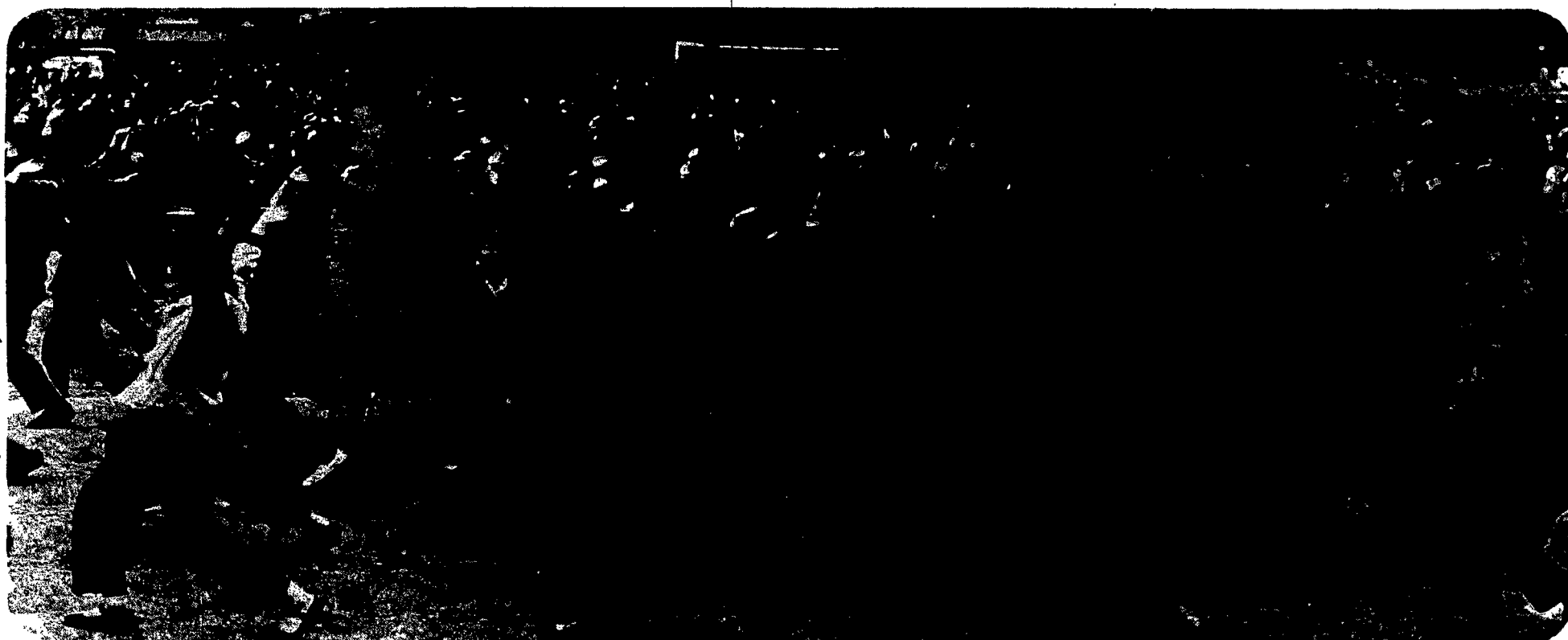
Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.  
Bishop of Rochester



"Parents, who have the primary and inalienable right and duty to educate their children, must enjoy true liberty in their choice of schools. Consequently, the government, which has the obligation to protect and defend the rights of citizens, must see to it, in its concern for distributive justice, that public assistance is given in such a way that parents are truly free to choose according to their conscience the schools they want for their children . . . The Council also reminds Catholic parents of the duty of entrusting their children to Catholic schools where and when possible, of supporting these schools to the best of their ability and of cooperating with them in the education of their children." (Vatican II: Declaration on Christian Education.)

## Supreme Court on Aid

1. Parents have the right to direct the education of children under their control. (**PIERCE v. SOCIETY OF SISTERS**, 1925).
2. States have the right to provide secular textbooks for children in private as well as public schools. Origin of "child-benefit" theory. (**COCHRAN v. LOUISIANA BOARD OF EDUCATION**, 1930).
3. State has the right to provide bus service to children in private schools. (**EVERSON v. BOARD OF EDUCATION**, 1947).
4. Public school children cannot receive religious instruction in public school buildings. (**McCOLLUM v. BOARD OF EDUCATION**, 1948).
5. Parents have the right to released time for their children to receive religious instruction off public school property. (**ZORACH v. CLAUSON**, 1952).
6. The State has no right to encourage in its public schools the use of prayer. (**ENGEL v. VITALE**, 1962).
7. The State has no right to have devotional Bible reading in its public schools. (**ABINGTON v. SCHEMPP**, 1963).
8. State Aid for the purchase of secular textbooks to be loaned to students is constitutional. (**BOARD OF EDUCATION v. ALLEN**, 1968).
9. Granting tax exemptions to churches is not unconstitutional. (**WALZ v. CITY OF NEW YORK**, 1970).
10. State aid to elementary and secondary schools must not take the forms adopted by Rhode Island (teacher salaries) and Pennsylvania (for secular services). (**LEMON v. KURTZMAN**, 1971).



"School monopoly is opposed to the native rights of the human person, to the development and spread of culture, to the peaceful association of citizens and to pluralism that exists today in ever so many societies." (Vatican II: Declaration on Christian Education.)