



Children from St. Lawrence cluster around Father Robert Ritz, CSB as he says a special children's liturgy last Sunday in the parish hall.

Special Children's Liturgy

St. Lawrence Church is sponsoring a series of Children's Liturgies on the third Sunday of the month at 10:15, to be held in the parish hall behind the church, according to Sister Mary Jane Mitchell, SSJ, parish director of

religious education.

The Children's Liturgy, for those in grades one through six, takes the place of what is ordinarily the folk Mass, and was planned with the assistance of

Father Neil Miller, assistant pastor, and Mrs. John Tschiderer of the parish liturgy committee. The Children's Liturgies are the continuation of a project that ended in June with a Mass attended by 70 children.

Take an ecumenical non-profit organization, add an experienced, innovative architect sensitive to the needs of "poor folk," plus a building manager who believes "if the management has something to offer the tenant, the tenant has something to offer management," and you are on the way to a unique low and moderate income housing project.

The organization is the IC Housing Development Fund Co., Inc. that resulted when the Catholic Interracial Council dissolved five years ago. The architect is an experienced black man

from Buffalo, Robert Trayham Coles. The building manager is William Bryant, and the housing project is Urban Park, 254 housing units opening for occupancy in early November.

James Dobson, president of IC Housing and accountant for the State Department of Taxation, proudly stated in a recent interview that they have received "in excess of 900 applicants for residence" in the latest third ward project, at Ford and Troup Streets.

He recounted the 1966 demise of the CIC.

"The CIC talked of race rela-

tions in churches and held a yearly fund raising dinner, but we wanted to do something more tangible," explained Dobson. "At that time Urban Renewal and federal funds were available to us so we formed the corporation."

Urban Park is their first project completed, but only their first. "We plan to do more, we see that it is a necessity and feel we have the expertise to do it," Dobson continued.

After six years of working with Urban Renewal, Dobson has positive feelings about it as long as they seek out and use community input.

Wednesday, October 18, 1972

Confirmation:

Parents to Have Greater Role In Preparation for Sacrament

By JOHN DASH

Parents whose children are anticipating confirmation this year may be in for some innovations stemming from a new sensitivity toward the sacrament in the diocese.

More than likely they will find themselves both preparing their children and being prepared themselves.

For example, Anne Messare heads up the Total Religious Education program at St. Margaret Mary Church, and has parents involved in teaching the 100 confirmands this year in home study programs.

The course features discussion groups using the publication "With the Spirit." The material stresses personal change of heart and the relationship of the individual to the parish, community and world.

The course was set up with 17 group leaders meeting with each of the parents, who in turn, lead the children through the book.

Reception of the sacrament won't be the end of the program, Miss Messare hopes. Plans are being developed to have discussion groups meet as a follow-up to confirmation.

The diocesan syllabus for confirmation is the core of the program at Auburn's St. Alphonsus Church, and again parents are involved in the 10-week course.

According to Father Lewis Brown, who heads the program, discussion and analysis of the paper "Mission of the Church to the Diocese of Rochester" and two programs of action and prayer are featured.

The CIA, or Christians in Action, is an organization in which the confirmands engage in community activity and perform the corporal works of mercy.

Christians at Prayer, or CAP, is the second organization in which the children prepare for the liturgy, compose petitions for use at Mass, greet parishioners at the door of the church and design banners for the church.

A Different Approach

By JOHN DASH

In February 1967, then Bishop Fulton J. Sheen surprised not only the diocese but also the Catholic community across the nation when he proposed a delay in administering the sacrament of confirmation, because he considered it a mark of adulthood, to be given after adolescence, perhaps even after high school graduation.

According to Father William M. Roche, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ithaca, who concurs with the bishop's thinking on the matter, the practical effect of the bishop's suggestion was a three-year suspension of all confirmation rites.

This year, Father Roche requested and received of the pastoral office permission to delay confirmations until about the age of 18.

Father Roche is experimenting with a four-year program of preparation for the sacrament in which both parents and children participate, and whose aim is to ready children to leave home with their own system of values and prepare them to make a mature commitment to Christ.

Father Roche feels "it's unfair to kids who are 10 years old to expect them to make a lifetime

commitment. The commitment is a mature decision."

During his three-year pastorate, Father Roche has noted no "conscious preparation for leaving home" in the community. The young adult, he says, either goes into the service or college.

He commented that "kids leave home and flounder around for a while. Religiously speaking, they may stop going to Church for a while, allow their peers to lead them in spiritual values — it's kind of like the blind leading the blind."

He says he hopes to give the spiritual preparation for leaving home with his program "to help kids in forming their own values in life and developing their own set of principles."

A feature of Father Roche's "attitudinal preparation" coupled with doctrinal content from the diocesan syllabus is discussion between parents and children.

He used such roundtable talks last year and sees the technique valuable for both youngsters and parents. He said that youngsters tend to reject parents' values and also minimize parental experiences. Because of this, he says, it is necessary to open lines of communication.

IC Housing Set to Open

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

From his involvement with housing, he said he had seen a lot of mistakes he wouldn't want IC Housing to duplicate.

"Urban Renewal has a bad history over on Joseph Avenue of moving people out that have not been able to move back into the area," said Dobson, citing one mistake they plan to counteract in the third ward.

IC has three priorities for potential tenants. First to be considered are people who lived in the third ward; second, people displaced from other Urban Renewal areas and third, others displaced by government action.

In the center of the six acres that make up Urban Park is an 11-story cement block high rise with 154 units — 22 efficiency, 64 one-bedroom and 77 two-bedroom apartments.

Clustered around the high rise along with lots of green spaces and two black-topped tot lots, are 14 townhouse units which hold 60 three and 30 four-bedroom units.

Two hundred fifty-four units on six acres, a requirement resulting from collaboration with the purse string holders, Urban Renewal and Federal Housing Administration, worried

(Continued on Page 8)