



When one can buy all the ingredients for a Thanksgiving Day feast frozen and neatly wrapped in plastic in a shiny chrome and concrete supermarket, it becomes difficult, especially for a child, to understand the true spirit of Thanksgiving.

But thanks to Father John Reif, the kids attending St. Michael's CCD classes see Thanksgiving for what it really is — a day of thanks for all good things.

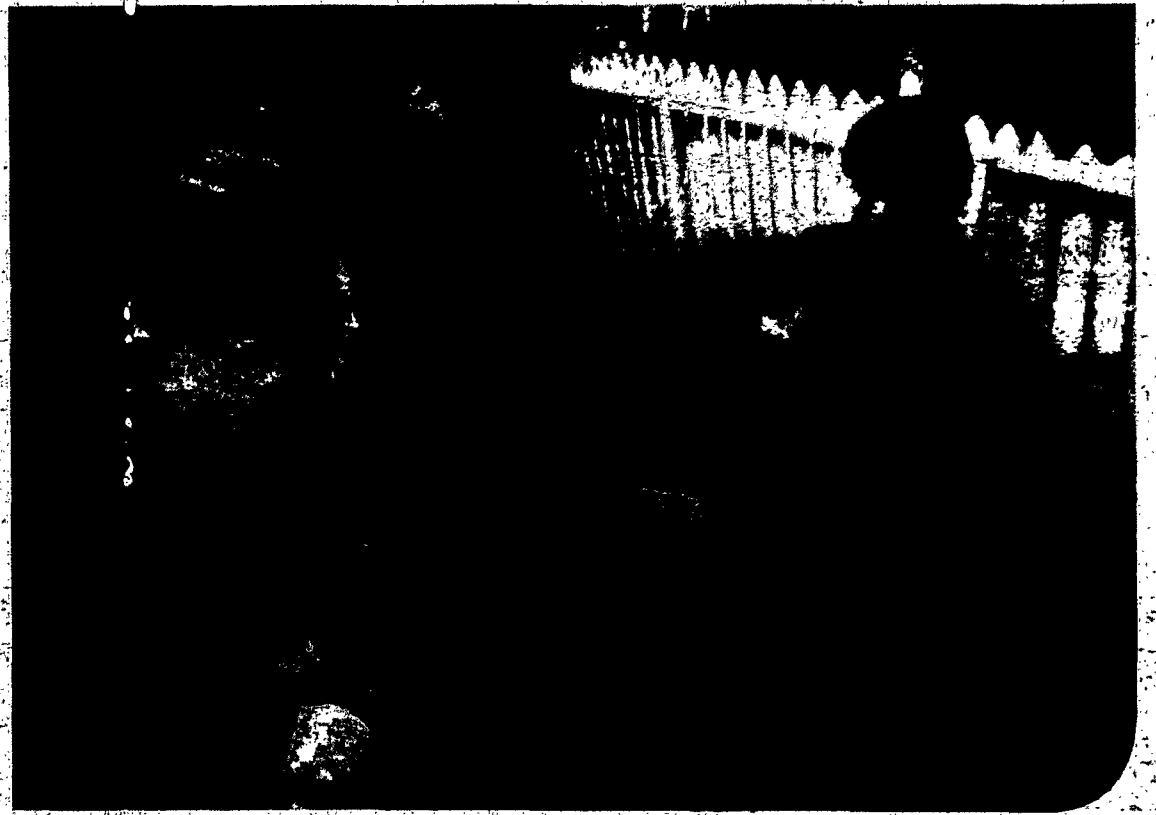
Through the CCD program, Father Reif has tried to revitalize the original theme of Thanksgiving — gratitude for the living things and the beauty of the earth which sustains us physically and spiritually.

This is closely related to the contemporary meaning of ecology which he defines as "preserving and loving and appreciating living things."

Several means were used to instill this awareness of God's earth in CCD participants, including a field trip to Mendon Ponds Park, where various examples of plant life were collected, a talk by Ray Heuther of the Monroe County Conservation Council and the writing of essays and making of posters for the project theme.

On Thanksgiving Day the whole project will culminate with a solemn liturgy in which gifts of living things will be brought to the altar. Among them will be several small fir trees which will later be planted in the St. Michael's convent garden.

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LEFT: Fr. Reif examines moss found by [from left] Michael Rivera, Manuel Colon, and Remberto Velez.

ABOVE: Link Pape, a St. Michael's CCD student picks carrots with Mr. Anthony Stauber who raises plants as a hobby.