



Mrs. Kathy Maslanka conducts religious ed. class for preschoolers Lauren Maslanka, John Meagher, and Steven Walters.



Religious ed coordinators, Sister Ellen Galvin of Holy Spirit, Tom Driscoll of St. Jerome's in East Rochester, and Penny Perez of St. Mary's in Auburn, form discussion panel during training session at Mercy Motherhouse.

'You Are the

Jesus and His disciples left villages around Caesarea Phil the way he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, others one of the prophets." "But who do you say I am?" he asked, "who do you say I am?" He spoke up and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

Mark,

By SISTER MICHAEL LAPPETITO, RSM
Director of Religious Education

The third Sunday of September has traditionally been designated by the American bishops as Catechetical Sunday. This year, Sunday, Sept. 21, once again presents us with an opportunity to thank the many dedicated religious educators and catechists throughout the diocese for their faithfulness to the teaching mission of the Church.

However, catechetical Sunday celebrates more than the generous efforts of these dedicated persons. It permits us the occasion to reflect for ourselves upon the mysteries of Christ's identity and what meaning His life, death and resurrection holds for each of us in the many moments of our day to day routines. Hopefully, we will be able to identify that mysterious and abiding presence in our daily experiences as the Lord Jesus did and like Peter, we will be able to acclaim, "You are the Christ."

Religious educators are charged with the responsibility to proclaim the Christ to the entire Christian community. The task of proclamation, though performed with singlemindedness of purpose, is nonetheless complex in structure. The task of religious education enjoins upon the catechist the responsibility to be a servant of the Church, a person of deep faith as well as a knowledgeable and skilled communicator.

As a servant of the Church, the catechist must strive to inspire all persons with the vision of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is the reign of God, more specifically, it is God's presence and power that have broken into human history in the person of Jesus Christ. All persons have a sense of the kingdom of God when they have experiences of compassion, peace, joy, justice, kindness and mercy. The many, but limited and imperfect experiences of the kingdom of God, create in human hearts the desire and hopeful anticipation of the final coming of the kingdom where God's love will perdure.

The catechist helps the Christian community identify its experience of the kingdom and internalize the meaning and value therein, for it is the vision of the kingdom that sustains Christian hope in the face of human failure and the power of sinfulness. It is the reign of God for which the Church must hope, must bear witness and must proclaim. For to proclaim faith in Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ is to recognize the continuity to re-create all things new in Him.



Pauline Meagher, Rene