

Early Education Is Color-Keyed

By MARTIN TOOMBS

"A tisket, a tisket, a pink and white basket," the children sing at Most Precious Blood's new pre-school program. They may not be singing the usual words, but that's because they know that the basket they're carrying is pink and white and not green and yellow as the song would indicate. Games that reinforce color identification and similar skills occupy much of the time for Mrs. Diane Triano's 14 pre-school children.

In 1972, the 130-year-old farmhouse that had been used as the parish rectory was converted for use as a kindergarten. An experimental group of 3-5 year olds attended the school in the afternoon last winter, and the program was such a success that it was added on a regular basis this year. The kindergarten meets in the morning, with the pre-school section meeting on Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 until 2:30.

The building has been decorated to interest the children, with the alphabet painted in bright colors around the outside. The inside is gaily decorated with large flowers,

colorful pictures and posters. Mrs. Triano explains that "I wanted the colors of the rainbow all around the children. I want them to enjoy themselves here and want to come. From what I've seen so far, it's working."

The children are involved in a wide range of activities, designed to prepare them for reading and other skills that will be important in their later education. A lesson on corn included coloring a drawing of an ear yellow and the leaves green, and then pasting popcorn on the yellow portion. The results showed a good ability to recognize colors and stay within the lines, important skills for pre-schoolers, Mrs. Triano said. Many activities serve to introduce new words to the children, which will help them

when they start reading. Each week a color is featured, and a cooking project is done to fit the color; yellow week ended with the making of vanilla pudding.

Mrs. Triano, a graduate of Nazareth College is assisted by Mrs. Kathy Walsh, a volunteer from the parish. They also have aims that will never show up in reading scores. Mrs. Triano feels that an awareness of God is important, and talks to the children about His presence. Before their snacks, everyone says grace. She also works on socialization problems, helping the children to get along with each other.

Watching a session, you realize that school doesn't need to be drudgery to be successful.



Photos by Ben Susso

Parents arrive promptly to pick up their pre-schoolers, excited to be going home and anxious to tell of new experiences.



Proper use of scissors (children-size, of course), is demonstrated by Mrs. Triano.



Renee Fazio newly experienced in the art of welding scissors, completes her blueberry basket.

More Opinions

Commends Book

Editor:

While I didn't have the chance to read Father Charles Curran's discussion on sex in the 9-28 Democrat and Chronicle, I want to thank Rev. G. Stuart Hogan for his rebuttal in the 10-8-75 issue of this paper. Along this same line there is a reasonable paper back book by Cardinal Suenens called "Love and Control" which is a most beautiful and thoughtful book. The price is \$1.25 and can be purchased from

Paulist Press
400 Sette Drive
Paramus, New Jersey 07652

As pointed out in "The Month" this book contains "A clear, direct, forthright and highly inspirational exposition of the Church's teaching on love and marriage, sexual morality and Christian self-mastery in the service of true love."

I believe this book is a must for the home library of both married and single folks alike.

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Trust in God, Not Mankind

Editor:

McNaught asks by what standards Father Hogan makes

his judgments. Obviously Father Hogan was called to the priesthood because God had a job for him — to spread the Word — the GOOD NEWS that we can free ourselves from our worldly temptations and sins by turning ourselves around.

On the other hand, Mr. McNaught's standards are worldly standards. He puts his trust not in God, but man. His trust is in anthropologists, zoologists, psychologists, psychiatrists and the Catholic Theological Society Committee on Sexuality.

If I had no belief that God stands willing to help us to deal with our human temptations, or if I felt I'd sincerely tried all answers given in Scripture and by the Church, without results, then I, too, might put my faith in mankind. But then there would truly be no hope! Mankind only succeeds in blundering into deeper and deeper errors if God's help is not sought.

But I've seen and experienced the POWER of FAITH through PRAYER! I've seen and experienced the faith that derives from believing what our God tells us in Scripture and prayerfully putting these beliefs into practice! I've seen the results of stepping out in faith and prayer! The results are powerful!!! We can turn ourselves around! With God NOTHING is impossible!

Our understanding of self, nature and God may be different in ways, but not in the ways McNaught says. His understandings have changed in ways which make it easier to

submit to sin. The Church's understanding has changed only in the means by which we submit to God's will as related in Scripture and through His Church!

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Editor's Note: Since there have been no new developments on the issue of homosexuality and the Church, and since the Courier-Journal has given adequate time and space for all viewpoints to be heard, we will not be printing letters on the topic at least for the time being. This is done to allow more space for letters on other topics.

Farm Elections Abused

Editor:

Many people are aware that legislation took effect in California which provides for free farm worker elections so that they may be represented by a union of their choice. It is true that the United Farm Worker's Union (UFW) has made some gains through these elections to date.

What many people do not realize is that farm workers are voting for UFW despite mounting pressures on them from Teamsters and growers. Unfair labor practices are being committed in each election to try to frighten workers away from the UFW. The staff of the Agricultural Labor Relations Board (ALRB) has not intervened effectively to stop these practices; the result of the ALRB inaction is that workers are becoming more fearful and

growers are becoming more bold in their use of intimidation tactics. Here is a sampling of the unfair labor practices:

1. Firing workers who wear buttons, sign authorization cards, or in other ways show visible support for UFW; at the same time using company supervisors to campaign for Teamsters.

2. Threatening to fire workers and threatening to evict workers from their homes if they vote for UFW.

3. Granting total access to Teamsters personnel while denying UFW organizers the right to talk with workers during non-work hours and in labor camps (despite ALRB rulings and court rulings).

4. Using guns and physical threats to frighten workers into voting for the Teamsters or for no union.

5. Gathering workers into "captive audience" meetings on the day of the election to threaten them with loss of job or home if they vote for UFW.

6. Physical beatings of UFW organizers by Teamster "organizers" and company agents.

It is obvious that Walter Kintz, general counsel of ALRB is not doing his job as supervisor of the free election process. It is imperative that Gov. Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown of California act quickly and decisively to replace Mr. Kintz so that free and fair elections can take place. To quote Cesar Chavez, president of the UFW:

"He has in no case taken steps to create an atmosphere in which

free elections can be held. Growers are treating the law with no respect. Mr. Kintz has taken no steps to insure justice to farm workers. With Mr. Kintz as general counsel your law has become one more vehicle with which growers and Teamsters can oppress farm workers. Governor Brown you are failing in your pledge to bring justice to farm workers by allowing Mr. Kintz to remain in office."

It is important that we join our voices with that of Mr. Chavez as he calls for the replacement of Mr. Walter Kintz. Please write or wire Gov. Brown today! (State Capital, Sacramento, CA. 95814).

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Cartoon Criticism

Editor:

I would like to express my growing dissatisfaction with your weekly newspaper.

There are too many times lately when the question comes to my mind as to "whose side you're on."

Isn't there enough dissension in this world without Catholics ridiculing each other?

We thought it was in very poor taste to caricature a "Prince of the Church."

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