



Some take notes, while others pause to savor a comment during an evening workshop at Mercy High School.

Text by Joan M. Smith.  
Photos by Susan McKinney

## Training Session For Effective Teaching



Mrs. Sally Prince and Sister Mary Suzanne, both from annunciation parish, during Creative Catechesis workshop.

Under the direction of Father Donald Schwab, director of the Rochester Diocesan Religious Education Department, his staff and Sister Marie Brown, program coordinator, the department held its fourth annual Religious Education seminar on Tuesday, June 7.

The day's events, attended by religious education coordinators and parish staff people, began with a luncheon seminar, continuing with an innovative program — an evening of practical workshops at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Keynote speakers were Dr. Marie Harris, professor

at Andover Newton and faculty member for the Religious Education Programs at Loyola of the South, Fordham University and Boston College and Thomas Tewey, United States Catholic Conference representative for Adult Education. Dr. Harris spoke on "Parish Issues in Religious Education" and "The Teacher's Journey — A Search for Wisdom." Tewey spoke about "The Adult Learner."

During the afternoon segment Dr. Harris presented workcases involving parish religious education situations through which the audience diagnosed the problems and gave individual input into

solutions. Dr. Harris pointed out that there were many styles of learning and of approaching situations and they weren't always the same with each individual. She emphasized to her listeners the importance of being very "present" at the learning sessions but to also stand back and look at themselves — to be "self-consciously reflective."

The evening workshops, geared to the practical applications of religious education in parishes, completed the day of training objectives the goal of which was explained by Sister Marie. "It is an in-service opportunity of becoming more aware of what religious education is within the parishes."



Mrs. Anna Mae Tette of Holy Family parish.