



Father parish Franc

St. Ambrose Church

Parish Launches 'Homecoming'

The St. Ambrose Parish family started a "Homecoming" program this Lent.

"Homecoming," is the term for the parish program of evangelization, a parish spokesperson noted, an effort to bring the Good News into all stratae of humanity, and to transform humanity from within, making it new.

The Church evangelizes when she seeks to convert, St. Paul wrote to the Romans, solely through the divine power of the message she proclaims, both the personal and collective consciences of people as well as all activities in which they engage, their lives and concrete surroundings.

The theme of evangelization has been stressed frequently of late, especially in the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Paul VI in December of 1973. Evangelization, he noted, is a vocation proper to the Church and is the mission of all her people.

The program at St. Ambrose developed over a time of study and reflection by the pastoral team.

Homecoming took root and during the Lenten season many parishioners participated in the seminars offered. During the first week of Lent, between 30 and 40 people devoted each evening to study, prayer and socializing.

Topics discussed during that period included The Church as Community, Jesus of History/Christ of Faith, Sacraments, Baptism, Our Commitment to New Life, and Evangelization.

The community looked at itself and, being more aware of its commitment to the Word, willingly volunteered to personally contact those known to be disassociated from the Church.

The Lenten program continued with a general week-long parish seminar open to all parishioners. Topics



Ann Verzillo, a Eucharistic minister, visits one of the parish shut-ins. Below, she gives Holy Communion to Mrs. Louise Iaia.



George Bauer, left, and Ken Scarciotta discuss the week.



Father Marvin explains the evangelizing program to Irving Simmons.