

# Monday — Sept. 21

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an ancient term in the se is to make the inious, living and active on. But how does this ishes of our diocese doing answer this question, we in the diocese and asked vants of the Word. Their nness and diversity of Rochester as parishes seek groups and every level of



## Bible School

Another stepping stone to faith is the Summer Bible School. Above, youngsters participate in ceremonies that ended a successful Bible week at St. Paul's in Webster. The children's lessons centered on the Life of Jesus, and with the cooperation of the adult and teenage staff, the came to know Jesus through music, drama and dance.

## The Children

Submitted by Rosemary Haak, St. Joseph's, Livonia

"Our first priority is CCD," is a quote heard over and over by Father Jerome Schifferli, pastor of St. Joseph's, Livonia. St. Joseph's Education Program begins with the children and at present centers primarily there, but the future holds firm hope of a soon to be adult education program.

Our aim is to bring Christ and His teachings to our children. We try to do this through the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program, which is available to all Catholic children (and those of other denominations who wish to attend) who attend Livonia Central grades 1-12. This includes students from St. Michael's, Livonia Center, St. Williams, and Conesus.

Goals for a CCD program are to have the students attend classes regularly and to have a good enrollment. St. Joseph's has an annual enrollment of between 350-375.

Children attend the CCD program during school hours and go home on the school buses. The program has 23 teachers, a dozen helpers, an office staff of three, a custodian, maintenance people, and volunteers headed by Father Schifferli who often

teaches when a substitute is needed. A part-time coordinator is responsible for keeping all things going God's way.

All are governed by a Board of Education which consists of nine persons. Many of the teachers attend CERT Workshops and are working for certification as specified by the Diocese of Rochester. Parent meetings are a requirement where Sacraments are involved.

The important questions are: what do we teach? how do we teach? Every student is supplied a textbook and a home activity book at the beginning of the year. Both books are usually taken home each week for required assignments. Parent study and help are recommended.

Our library has a wide assortment of supplemental reading and there is a continuity as far as curriculum. In first grade the children are given an introduction to the Trinity; second grade, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist, followed in the next year with an introduction to Church. Subject matter for each year is selected so that by the end of the 12th year, a student should have a basic knowledge of his Faith and how to live it.



## Parent Involvement

Scripture study is popular at St. Anne's

## servant of the Word

## A Parent's Thought

Submitted by Mrs. Michael Brown  
St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester.

Our child experienced her first confession early in the Spring. At first I was upset. She's too young, I thought, and besides, it would reflect on me. Then I realized how her little habits of not hanging her clothes or those disagreeable moments over bedtime, and not wanting to share with her little brother could cause a turmoil that destroyed dispositions throughout the family. Perhaps her actions were harmless, but the effects of her behavior on a bad day at times became mountainous. Reminding her about Jesus helped us all to gain a respect for each other. Maybe a first confession is good. It prods me as a parent to realize that conscience is a developed process and it's time to start when she's young and I still have her underfoot. If only I can help her to understand to do what Jesus taught, rather than to do just what is expected by the adult in charge. So much has to be done when children are young to prepare them for life — a life of self-discipline.

She attended religion classes with her group on Thursday afternoon. She learned about God and Jesus and the lessons taught by Jesus to love God and love one another. I was amazed at how much the children learned. We didn't have a Catholic school and our religion was passed down to us by our parents. With the help of those wonderful religion teachers we began to understand more about our faith with our child.

As a parent I am pleased with our parish's religious education program. I am grateful that our religion teachers take the time from their own busy lives to volunteer to teach and take time to attend Religious Education Certification classes. My husband and I would like to thank all of the volunteers. Transporting our daughter on those snowy days, adjusting my part-time work schedule to pick her up, dragging her little brother along, and remembering her book now all seem like small tasks not worth complaining about. Next year she will attend religious class on Sunday after Mass. In the Fall she will have another special Penance program and learn more about the teachings of Jesus. She will attend each year and hopefully will learn to understand the riches of her Catholic religion so that as an adult she can enjoy the same happiness that we experienced on the day of her First Communion.

## The Liturgy

Submitted by Denise Mack, Holy Name

Family participation in several Sunday Holy Family parish liturgies during their First Eucharist preparation last year was successful. They hope such creativity and enthusiasm can develop through the involvement of other groups. Subsequently, the School of Religion children will be included in the planning process of Sunday liturgies this year. Grade levels will each study a Sunday's readings, relate their lives and studies to them, prepare introductory statements for each reading, express their prayer in General Intercessions, and select hymns whose lyrics express the sense of the scriptures of the day. Some groups may dramatize a Scripture passage, or display samples of God's creation or child art that develop the Scripture's theme. A group may rehearse a psalm response, or explain a facet of the liturgy they have studied or experienced. Some student work may beautify the worship area. Other students may make a symbol of Jesus' celebration to give to each participant.

Regular lessons will be supplemented for several weeks of planning for this special class involvement in a Sunday parish liturgy. The children will be guided to better hear and understand God's Word and Sacrament. Different ideas will be weighed for their reverence quotient. The children will prepare the altar and usher.

This focus on liturgy will root our School of Religion more solidly because of its very strong social gospel thrust. We take the gospel seriously. It is in the hungry and thirsty where we see Christ most clearly. We need to come together to the fount of catechetics, contemplation and service. It is in liturgy where our solidarity with God's family is strengthened and bonded. God's Word and Sacrament gives nourishment and direction — the grace to serve.

Experiencing liturgy at its finest engages the whole person, the heart as well as the mind. God's presence is sensed in the gifts shared by the members of the community. The criteria for evaluating such participation in liturgy include: increased intimacy with God; increased understanding of God's Word and commitment to Jesus and his challenging way of life; awe and joyful celebration of these sacred mysteries; growing care and concern for this community and for this troubled world.