

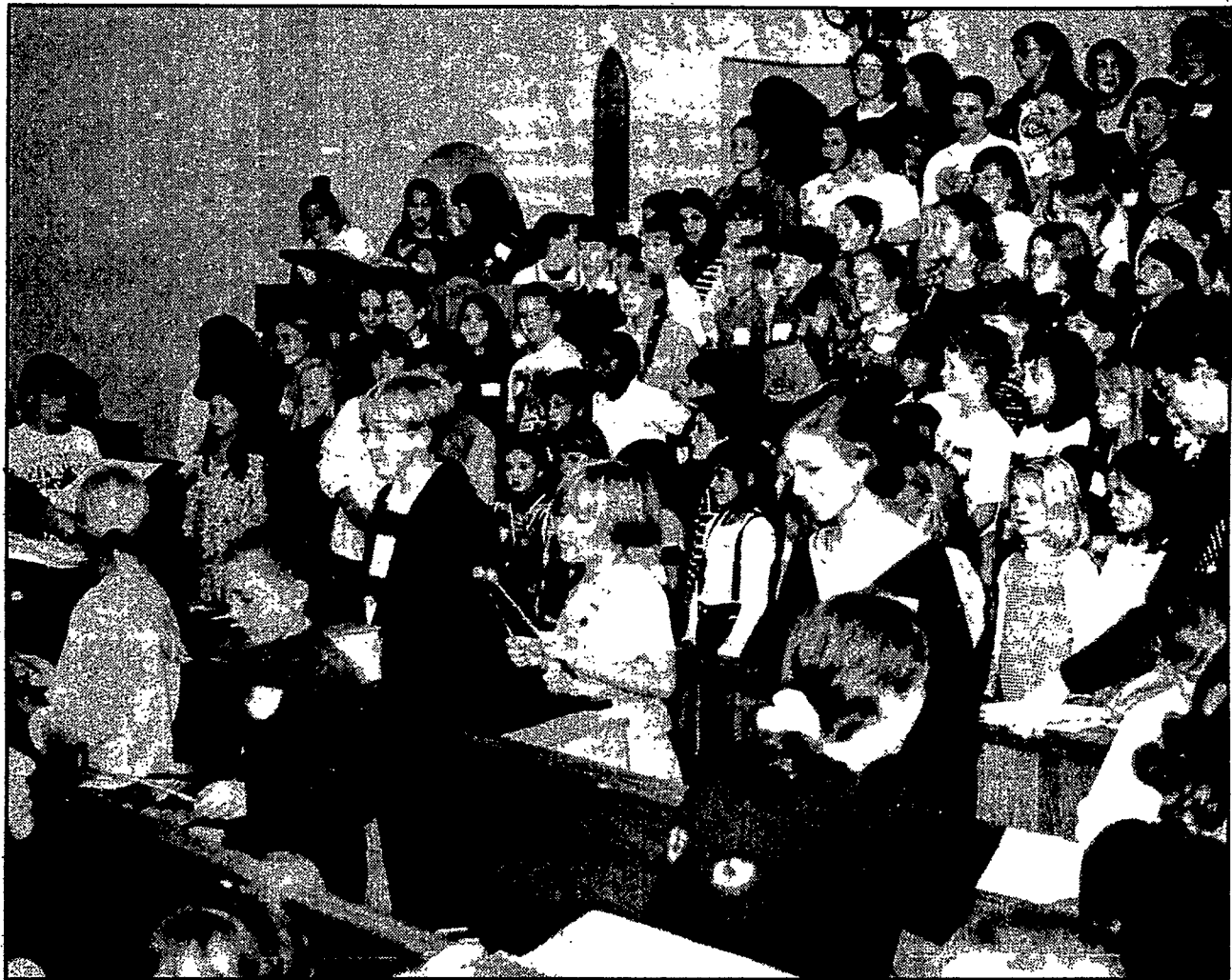
# FEATURE



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

## Singing and ringing

More than 225 young people from 12 diocesan youth choirs came together Oct. 26 at St. Theodore's Church, Rochester, for Diocesan Youth Choir Day. Participants spent the day in workshops on such subjects as instrumental and singing techniques. The day ended with the children from all the attending choirs performing as a combined choir. Andrew Simmons (above left) concentrates during a hand chimes class.



## Expert to share ways to help children 'catch' values

Louise Bates Evans is not happy with the way politicians have been using the term "family values" during the 1996 campaign.

"I really think that it has been exploited," declared Evans, a retired professor at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, Ind. "I think it has been a political come-on."

Evans' resume, on the other hand, suggests she can speak about family values with some measure of authority.

She is a member of the advisory board of the Parenting for Peace and Justice Network, former director of Family and Children's Ministries for the Church of Christ in the United States and Canada, and has served as the director of the Ecumenical Black Family Ministries Project of the National Council of Churches.



Evans will be in the Diocese of Rochester Nov. 7 and 8 to conduct an in-service program and to offer two workshops for parents.

The Friday, Nov. 8, in-service, "Partnering with families to teach values," is set for 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Geneva's Belhurst Castle. The two family events address the theme, "Family Values: Caught not taught." The first will be held Nov. 7, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Rochester. The second, to include an optional pizza dinner and children's activities, is set for Nov. 8, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Church of St. Mary Our Moth-

er, 816 West Broad St., Horseheads.

"We wanted to have someone come in to talk to the people in our parishes and to the parents about how to pass values on to their kids," observed Karen Rinefierd, diocesan coordinator for Young Adult, Adult and Family Faith Formation. "Our parents need help, and our people in the parishes need the same."

Evans noted that her basic message to parents is a simple one: "Parents should live the life they want their children to learn."

Indeed, the title of her talk to parents highlights the fact that children "catch" their values by watching what their parents do, rather than by being "taught" or told what is the right thing to do.

"Children observe their parents and the way their parents live their lives," Evans

said. "You can't say one thing and live another way. If your value is honesty, when somebody calls and you don't want to talk to them, you don't have your children lie."

Evans added that parents should not just rely on schools to teach values.

"Parents are the most important influence on their children's values — or they can be," Evans concluded.

For more information about cost and registration for Evans' programs, call Rinefierd at 1-800-388-7177, or 716/328-3210.

— Lee Strong

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