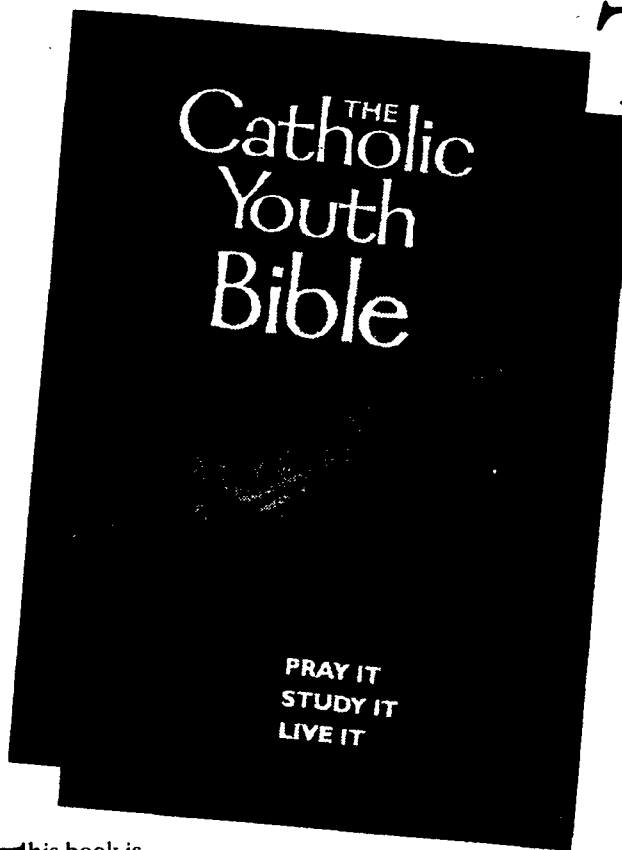


on the MOVE

Story by Mike Latona



Teen-friendly Bible debuts

Bible and ScriptureWalk to be sold in area religious bookstores by early next year. Neither publication will be sold through the diocese.

The Catholic Youth Bible was made available to participants at the National Catholic Youth Conference, held Nov. 18-21 in St. Louis, Mo. In fact, Scripture reading was a major component of the national conference: Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined several bishops from around the country at a congress on Scripture. Four diocesan teens were among the congress' youth delegates: Grace Dudek (St. Pius X, Chili); Michele Gammariello (St. Patrick, Macedon); Brian King (St. Rita, Webster); and Jen Laflam (St. Anne/St. Gregory, Palmyra/Marion).

Theisen said that the congress, as well as publication of the Catholic Youth Bible, are components of "a real push of late to get Catholics more literate with Scripture."

Jackie Campbell, youth minister at St. Bridget's Church in Rochester, was among the 615 teens and adults from the Rochester Diocese who attended the NCYC. Campbell said she will incorporate the Catholic Youth Bible into faith-sharing sessions beginning in January.

"I think the kids will have a good time with it," she remarked. "The way it is laid out graphically, it says, 'Read me.'"

Campbell agrees with the Catholic Youth Bible's approach, saying that teens are more likely to read it because it's written "relevant for their life right now."

"Our youth have a general lack of Scripture, but I think there is a desire for it," Campbell said. "They have a desire to learn about scriptural themes like forgiveness and reconciliation."

For instance, she noted that the introduction to the Gospel of Mark asks readers if they have "ever been ridiculed or rejected by others," a theme that most teens can relate to. The passage explains that the Gospel of Mark was written for early Christians who were facing persecution for their faith.

Campbell further observed that many parts of the Catholic Youth Bible are interpreted through the eyes of blacks, Asian Americans, Native Americans and Hispanics. Campbell's parish, St. Bridget's, is one of the largest African-American parishes in the diocese.

Vivian and Shaundra Ragland, from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Rochester, each acquired copies of the Catholic Youth Bible when they attended the NCYC with the St. Bridget's group.

The Ragland sisters gave the new Bible big thumbs-up.

"It has words I can understand," said Shaundra, 15.

Shaundra added that the Holy Land maps in the back of the Bible helped her learn "where it all took place."

Vivian, 16, said she finds the Bible's theme-related index to be quite useful.

"If I'm feeling down, I can go to a part about depression," she said.

Vivian and Shaundra agreed that the new Bible is bound to spur interest among teens.

"They'll say, 'I could relate to this Bible,'" Shaundra remarked.

Coming Next Week: New Year's Eve plans

This book is full of sections titled "PRAY IT!" "LIVE IT!" and "Did you know?" Such captions as "Those thickheaded disciples," "Mission possible" and "Radical equality" are sprinkled over the pages.

Obviously, the publication has been designed to grab your attention. Its title?

In most circles it's known as the Holy Bible.

Beginning Feb. 1, 2000, the Catholic Youth Bible, published by Saint Mary's Press, will be released nationwide. Chances are, you've never seen a Bible like this before.

Its actual Scripture passages, using the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, remain unaltered. However, that text is accompanied by extensive material explaining the passages, and relating them to a teen's everyday life.

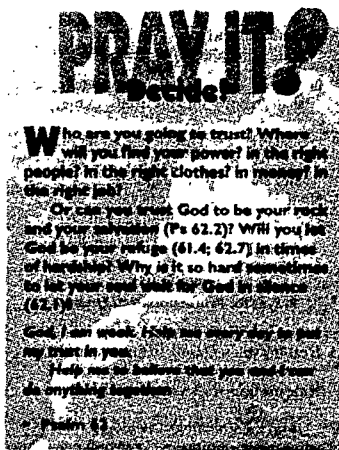
For instance, the section on "thickheaded disciples" points out instances related in the Gospel of Mark when Jesus' disciples failed to trust him or understand his teachings.

The section adds: "But don't count out the original disciples. Their journey is like most of ours, a lifelong experience of growing in faith and understanding." It points out that the disciples eventually became so bold, they fearlessly preached about Christ in the Acts of the Apostles.

Back sections of the Catholic Youth Bible contain blank pages for journaling; maps of the Holy Land; time lines of human and biblical history; and an index relating to specific themes, such as sexuality and self-image.

Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry, served on the writing team for the Catholic Youth Bible. He has also written a manual, "ScriptureWalk," which offers models to spark Scripture-sharing talks among high-school teens. Theisen co-wrote that manual with Nora Bradbury-Haehl, youth minister at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield and Holy Trinity Church in Webster. ScriptureWalk, also, is published through Saint Mary's Press.

Theisen said he hopes for the Catholic Youth



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