

### Our Lady to host 2 priests for week

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Beverly Hills will be hosting two Redemptorist priests, Father David Shannon and Father Thomas Brooks, for a week-long parish mission beginning Feb. 1. Various subjects such as marriage, happiness and sin will be discussed at the 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. services daily. The theme of the parish mission is reconciliation.

### Sisters host U.S. officers

United Order True Sisters, Inc. Detroit Chapter 41, will host its national president and first vice president Monday and Tuesday. The lodge will entertain Mrs. William Donahue and Mrs. Stanley Friedman of New York at a dinner board meeting Monday at Michigan Inn in Southfield. The women will also be guests at the chapter's meeting Tuesday at Sutton Place, Southfield.

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Mother plays with child. What will he be like a year from now? (Photographed by Tracy Baker)

# Infant observation spurs keener parent awareness

By **SHELLEY EICHENHORN**  
Most people think infants don't do very much except eat and sleep. But according to Prof. Doris Sponseller, "If you don't think anything important is going on, you're not aware of the tremendous amount of learning and experimentation taking place."  
The director of early childhood education at Oakland University explained that for a long time, scientists weren't aware of the activities of infants.  
"But, now we know that at a very early age, infants are trying to differentiate and make sense out of their environment."  
In order to understand this, parents must be taught how to observe and interact with their babies. This is the goal of the infant-parent observation program established at Oakland University.  
In the winter session to begin Wednesday, the first half of the class will enable parents to interact with their infants and observe the behavior of other children.

what they have seen while university students supervise observational techniques to use at home. At the earliest age, children begin to develop a self-concept. We want to give parents more confidence in helping their infants grow," Prof. Sponseller said.  
She stressed, however, that the program is not designed to speed up development but rather to help parents understand the factors which come into play in the growth process.  
One of the most valuable aspects of the program, according to Prof. Sponseller, is that it enables parents to see how other children develop in the range of normal behavior.  
It also helps parents of a four-month-old infant to see how a six-month-old infant might act.  
"This helps parents see what's coming next. They might learn how to help their child from one stage to the next," she said.  
In order to do this, parents are given guidelines for observation based on the Piagetian model. They are encouraged to be objective and not make assumptions as to the meaning of certain behaviors.  
"We just have parents record what they see and make no value judgments," Prof. Sponseller said.

will be shaken. This shows the infant has learned to classify objects which is a higher cognitive skill," the professor said.  
In the realm of language development, Prof. Sponseller explained that infants experiment with sound long before they can understand or use language.  
"THE INFANT develops a receptive or passive language capability. Very young children understand so much. They get a whole set of understandable language clues long before they can speak," Prof. Sponseller said. "This is developed extensively in the first year of life."  
The professor recommended  
(See Infant, page 12)

IN THE second half of the class, parents meet in a group to discuss

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