



EDITORIAL

by Monsignor William J. Linder

ADULT STUDENTS DESERVE OUR ATTENTION TOO

There is nothing so liberating as education when it comes to improving one's quality of life. That is why few things move me more than observing a classroom full of adult learners who are there because they simply choose to be. At New Community, they are young and old, mothers, grandmothers, and grandfathers, who realize the investment they make in themselves will pay dividends for the other important people in their lives. Yet, the first step on the road to a better paying job or being able to enroll in a college is often the most difficult—admitting one needs help. New Community's Adult Literacy programs, both those aimed at individuals needing instruction in basic skills as well as the ESL (English as a Second Language) population, exist to provide a pathway to upward mobility for those of very limited financial means. Many are welfare recipients and yes, some of those occupying our classroom seats are even homeless. What they all have in common, however, is a desire to better their lives through education—the kind certain to open doors many could never even imagine approaching before. That is why continued and yes, even increased funding for adult literacy education in New Jersey is critical. During these austere times in which budget priorities are being thoughtfully sorted out, let us remember that nothing quite unlocks the human potential like education. The state should be vigilant when it comes to supporting adult literacy programs.