

'Accomplish Something, Forget TV,' Boys Urged

South Boston Boys' Club members were told yesterday that the first requirement of citizenship is an understanding of the American way of life and an appreciation of the laws of God.

Dr. Thomas J. Curtin, director of civic education for the Massachusetts Dept. of Education, made the statement as principal speaker at the Church Day Community breakfast attended by 150 boys.

Dr. Curtin said: "Citizenship doesn't start at 21. It starts the day you are born." He admonished the youngsters to "be somebody." . . .

Other requirements for citizenship listed by Dr. Curtin: self-training in the ways of decency and honesty; taking advantage of opportunities; choosing proper companions, building a sense of duty and responsibility, having courage to live and fight for "free system of government at home.

Finally, Dr. Curtin said, the good citizen must recognize "the Fatherhood of God" with its firm sense of values, and

"the Brotherhood of Man" with its respect for the beliefs of others.

"Takes Training To Be Man"

Dr. Curtin's thoughts were echoed by Rev. Gerard Barry, curate of St. Augustine's Church.

"We accept the training and discipline required for fame, power or money," said Fr. Barry. "We must also realize that it takes training and discipline to be a man.

"The most terrifying part of leading a bad life is that it makes you less of a man."

Speaking of the boys' own community, Judge Joseph F. Feeney of the South Boston Municipal Court said: "We're not of great wealth over here, but think of the achievements of South Boston men like Sen. Powers and Cong. John W. McCormack.

"The fact that you don't have a big car or a TV set, or a lot of spending money, is much less important than the desire and will to accomplish something and to do good for your

community," said the judge.

Final speaker was Rabbi Leo Shubow of Somerville who urged the boys to "live in the 20th century with 20th century attitudes—to let live and help live, to have pride in yourself, but to understand the pride of others, too."

Bill Barrett, new mayor of South Boston Boys' Town, called on his young constituents for active participation in club affairs. He said: "A community is the sum of the people in it."