

Priest Advises Mothers Club To Be Parents, Not Buddies

"Generally speaking, a teenager's biggest problem is adults," the Rev. William Stanton, disciplinary director of Bishop Turner High School, told a Nativity Church Mothers Club meeting Tuesday evening in Orchard Park.

Father Stanton, discussing the disciplinary problems of home and school, said he feels the natural antipathy between adults and teen-agers is a good thing and that parents should be just that—parents, and not buddies.

"Training to respond to parental control should start early," he continued. "Once the tail starts wagging the dog, the parent is sunk. This does not

mean blind obedience. Young people have a right to explanations," he said.

The priest urged the parents to sympathetically listen and talk to their children—to counsel without crushing. It's difficult, he said, to be asked to act like an adult without an adult's privileges.

He stressed the importance of teaching young people a sense of responsibility, respect for authority and to discern real values.

He said social acceptance is necessary to teen-agers but parents must ask—acceptance by whom? Father Stanton said: "Like father, like son is still very true. Can't beat good example."