

## St. Ann's Guests Enjoy Comfort, Companionship

To the aged, illness often brings a fear of neglect, a loss of security and independence, a feeling that one might as well give up all hope, feeling that his or her days of usefulness have come to an end. Such an outlook, however, is counteracted at St. Ann's Home by the existence of a modern, well equipped infirmary.

All cared for in St. Ann's Home and Infirmary are referred to as, "Guests."

Many questions may arise in the minds of the public as they view the Infirmary Wing from the outside. What type Guest is admitted? How much care does a Guest receive? Is admission to the Infirmary in an institution such as this a sure sign that one's days are numbered? Is the atmosphere one of despondency and despair? Is there any social mingling of Guests?

Here an attempt is made to answer these questions satisfactorily and briefly.

### All Guests

What type Guest is admitted? The majority of Guests are those who, because of physical infirmity need help in caring for themselves. This care may be complete or partial. If one were to tour the Infirmary, he might see a person who is completely paralyzed, and consequently requires constant attention; several others who have suffered fractured hips, which for various reasons will never heal to the extent that they may walk again without assistance. Arthritis has claimed its victims too, in varying stages of incapacitation. Diverse types of physical defects combined with the age of the Guest has necessitated infirmary care. Then too, there are those who with a minimum of somatic ills are mentally confused, and who as a result, need constant attention.

The amount of care received, as has been pointed out, varies with the needs of the individual. All receive trays of nourishing food, properly prepared and attractively served. All enjoy the advantage of twenty-four nursing service by licensed nurses; all are assisted in the maintenance and improvement of his or her physical and mental condition; those who can, help themselves and are urged to do so, and willing assistance is provided by the nurse on duty.

A connection can be noted between the last three questions, and the answer to them is easily apparent to our inquirer as the tour continues. He will observe that there is no, "Abandon hope all ye who enter here," sign over the doors leading to the Infirmary, and he will quickly see that there is no need for one.

Of the forty-four Guests in the Infirmary, the oldest is ninety-five years, and has lived at St. Ann's thirty years, only two of which have been spent in the Infirmary.

Every effort is made by the Sisters, the nurses and the other personnel at the Home to make the life of the Guests



Photo by Jesse Millett and Allen Judd, RIT.

**THIS GOING TO TAKE LONG?** — Acting on the adage that "man is a social being," St. Ann's Home provides its guests pleasant companionship and recreation.

pleasant, cheerful, beneficial and home like. Many spiritual comforts, as well as happy cheerful times are mingled with the sufferings of illness and old age.

There are wards, and single and double rooms, all of which are large, bright and airy. The Guests are on a regular schedule and receive excellent care which is shown in various ways. An actual visit convinces one that the Guests are contented, cheerful and very grateful for the care which they receive.

Morning and afternoon finds all those not absolutely bed-ridden assembled in the large, colorful sun parlors for recreation. Here the old adage that, "Man is a social being," is proven daily. The newspaper is read, the radio listened to. National and local news discussed. Occasional entertainments are appreciated, and joy rather than gloom pervades the atmosphere. Emphasis is placed on living rather than

sitting back and waiting for death. Even those who seem to have the most reason for despondency are ever ready for a joke, a special treat, and with the women, a new halo, or a bright ribbon.

### Tender Care

Here, as in any hospital, infirmary or private home, the most potent medicine is the easily administered and gratefully received T. L. C., (tender loving care) without which all other remedies are rendered utterly useless.

Although one might appear to discover many of the bodily ills which supposedly escaped when Pandora opened her box, one will also find the one good which remained—eternal Hope—which brings the patient suffering through the difficulty of their earthly life to their God on the shores of eternity.

The happiest days of these Guests' lives are the days when Our Lord visits them in Holy Communion. This may be during Mass to which they are

brought in a wheel chair, or for those who are bedridden, when the Blessed Sacrament is taken to them after Mass.

Twice daily while assembled in the sun parlor, the Rosary is said, being led by a Sister or by one of the Guests.

A very important feature of the weekly program, are visits on Tuesday and Friday at the Students of St. Bernard's Seminary. A great deal of pleasure and spiritual guidance is brought to the sick by these students who are very kind, considerate and extremely interested in our dear old folk. It is most gratifying and inspiring to see youth interested in the aged who really need and appreciate kindness.

Finally, to answer a question not asked, but one which is vital in almost every enterprise, how is the care paid for?

### Chest All

Those who are able to pay for themselves do so; others may be able to pay only a part of the rate; some have no means of their own. The two latter groups are paid for through the Monroe County Department of Social Welfare. These two sources of income, together with the allotment from the Community Chest comprise the bulk of revenue which enables the Home to function.

An ingredient which contributes in a large measure to the happiness and contentment of the Guests, is that all receive the same care, attention and consideration regardless of the source from which the cost of each Guest's maintenance is received. Nor is the source from which any Guest's maintenance is received apparent to any observer or visitor.

**ALL THE LAW**  
All the law is contained in one word: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." (Ga. 1, 14)

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## Boy Scouts

Boy Scout progress under Catholic auspices was highlighted in Rochester diocese by two outstanding events in 1950.

Four Bronze Pelican awards were made for leadership. Recipients at a Scouters Rally in February were His Excellency Bishop Kearney, Louis A. Langlois, Edward M. Lorchelder and Joseph R. Klein, scout executive.

At one Court of Honor, five Eagle awards were made at Holy Redeemer Church hall. Supervised by the Rev. Donald J. Malachy, diocesan director, 55 Catholic sponsored troops have more than 2,000 boys enrolled.