



Chapel at St. Ann's Home for the Aged.

A Day At St. Ann's Home Starts With God

'Before I came to St. Ann's,' says guest, 'I wondered how I would spend my time.

Now, that I am here, I can't find time to do all the things I want to do.'

By a Sister of St. Ann's Home Staff

LIFE AT ST. ANN'S HOME is lived in comfortable, cheerful surroundings, among wholesome companions.

Morning rising is early, you may be sure. Among the gentlemen, some of the more energetic, when the weather permits, are returning from an early morning walk, about six a.m. Others are found grouped together predicting the weather for the day, or discussing an interesting TV program enjoyed the previous evening. Some, including many of the women, are sitting quietly fingering their rosary, as they wait for the hour when Holy Mass begins.

The congregation at St. Ann's Home does not need coaxing either to be present, or to be on time for Mass. They come in large numbers, and are ready long before the hour appointed. What pastor would not enjoy this kind of attendance in the early morning!

St. Ann's guests are fervent, too, in their attendance at daily Mass, with perhaps ninety-five percent receiving Holy Communion every day. Truly, they appreciate the blessing which is theirs in living under the same roof with their Lord. Their devotion makes St. Ann's a power house of prayer. These elderly folk, so intent on making the most of the Chapel privileges, no doubt bring joy and consolation to their Lord as he observes their genuine devotion.

Some of the less fortunate, confined to their rooms, are not forgotten in the round of spiritual consolations. For, after daily Mass, the Blessed Sacrament is taken by the chaplain to those unable to come to the Chapel.

After Mass, the ambulatory guests go to their respective dining rooms all attractively furnished. There in cheerful, bright surroundings, they are served with a substantial, well-

balanced meal. Courteous attendants serve them graciously.

AFTER BREAKFAST, the programs are many. Among the men, some who have not yet ventured out of doors, will start out for fresh air and exercise. Others, even go to nearby churches to attend some of the later morning Masses. Some in their charity volunteer to accompany a companion to the hospital for clinic service.

Still others are found in the smoking room sitting beside a convenient reading lamp, enjoying the morning news and smoking a favorite Havana. In the Spring and Summer months, a few will be found in the garden, working in one of the many small garden plots on the grounds.

Others, who have volunteered for regularly assigned duties, will be busy running the elevator to take other guests to and from the different floors, or they will attend to errands for the management, or to sweeping the walks, or to many other minute, but necessary duties.

The after-breakfast hour finds the women who are able looking after their own rooms, chatting with their neighbors, as they go back and forth. These folk, living in close contact with each other, as they do, form firm and lasting friendships. Recently one gentle lady on a visit out of the City with her relatives, stated, when her relatives pressed her to remain with them longer, that she was anxious to return "home" since her friend across the hall, was not well when she left, and therefore, she was desirous of returning to see how her friend was.

If the day in question is one on which a project of occupational therapy is in session, a surprise is in store for the casual visitor. Here will be seen ladies gifted with the skill-

ful use of the needle and plying their art in making a variety of exquisite hand work. The project may be making quilts for shipment to the war torn countries abroad, or dainty dresses for little girls soon to make their First Communion.

Those adept at the art of knitting, are seen making small sweaters of varied colors for poor children. Whatever the program, the sight is an inspiration. These folk, all well along in years, are unselfishly giving themselves in a sincere effort to bring happiness to others.

THE MORNING is all too short for the many things to be done, and before one realizes, the dinner bell rings. Again, a wholesome meal is enjoyed in sunny surroundings as the guests, seated in small groups, chat with their companions.

Almost without exception, the guests take advantage of an after-dinner siesta. Their many activities throughout the morning make this part of the daily program a very welcome one.

Siesta being over, the guests are up and doing again. The men's smoking room is always interesting. One group is engaged in a card game, while a few of their companions stand around kibitzing. Another group enjoys the afternoon T.V. programs. Others at an opposite end of the room engage in lively discussions on politics, economics or philosophy.

No topic is too deep or too sublime to be discussed, and completely settled, at least in their own minds, by St. Ann's elderly gentlemen. They have no difficulty discussing and settling most world problems in their own smoking room.

The day when the men's occupational therapy class is held is always a good day at St. Ann's. One gentleman confined to a wheel chair, sings "School

Days" in a good deep bass, while his companion, who still retains his sprightly step, and pushes the wheel chair, whistles to the same tune. When they are in season, apples are in order for the teacher, a refined, talented lady, who knows just how to develop the latent talents in her "boys," who make up the class.

Considering that many are prevented from attending the class because of crippled hands and defective sight, a class of fifteen is fairly well maintained. These men working in leather, successfully turn out billfolds, key cases, moccasins, and book covers. This weekly class lasts two hours.

IN THE WOMEN'S attractive, comfortable sitting rooms a varied program is also carried on. Some enjoy a favorite television program, others visit among themselves. A glance out of doors from one of the windows in these sunny rooms, shows a group of women guests returning from a walk in the fresh air, or from a visit to St. Joseph's or St. Mary's Churches, where they have attended a favorite novena. Other ladies are seen returning from a trip up town, where they have shopped for themselves, and for their neighbors in the Home, who are unable to make the trip or to endure the tedium of shopping.

A visit to the Infirmary, where twenty-four-hour nursing service is carried on, may be

on a day when an unseen visitor is expected momentarily. The unseen visitor is the Angel of Death. The anointing has taken place and the candles are left burning.

Some of the guest's family, should they have relatives, may still be lingering at the bedside. At any rate, the Sister in charge of this particular location is present, watching anxiously and doing everything possible to make the dying person comfortable.

THE EARLY RINGING of the supper bell heralds the evening hours at St. Ann's. Again, the guests gather round, their assigned table for a nourishing meal with their companions. After supper a brief time is spent in relaxation.

By six o'clock, the guests, one by one, make their way to the Chapel. The evening Rosary, said together in the Chapel, will not start until six forty-five o'clock, but three quarters of an hour is not too long a time for their evening visit with their Lord.

When the evening Rosary is finished, most of the guests relax for a short time before retiring.

A day at St. Ann's is a full day. As one woman recently said: "Before coming to St. Ann's, I wondered how I would spend the time I would have. Now, that I am here, I cannot find time enough to accomplish all the things I want to."

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