

A Nun Speaks

From the Cloister Silence

It was August 16, 1944 — one year before a long and bloody World War would end — eight of us stood outside a large house on West Church Street in Elmira. Eight cloistered Dominican nuns from our Buffalo monastery stood in front of the Elmira Country Club.

The humor of the situation caught us all, but there wasn't time to enjoy the joke. There was too much to be done — a ballroom that had known the swish of taffeta gowns would now know the jingle of rosary beads. And besides a ballroom turned chapel, there were many other changes to make before a country club would become a Dominican monastery.

Within a few weeks we began to keep the Perpetual Rosary, day and night, one of the most important and beloved of our devotions.

Before the end of the first year, Bishop Kearney granted us permission to have the Blessed Sacrament exposed daily from Mass in the morning until Benediction late in the afternoon.

By 1951 the community had grown by leaps and bounds and a new wing was neces-

sary. Completed in the spring of 1952, the addition included a community room and six private rooms for novices, a dormitory of eight individual rooms and community room for professed sisters, an infirmary, refectory, kitchen and laundry. It all cost \$129,000.

Today, there are twenty sisters in our Elmira community. Twelve are from the Rochester Diocese and two new sisters entered this month.

We are still badly in need of a permanent chapel and a nun's choir. The choir we have now adjoins the chapel and is very small, poorly lighted and without windows. We need more rooms for the sisters, too. In the spring we hope to begin construction of this portion of the monastery. It will cost about \$200,000.

What do cloistered Dominican nuns do? Well, we pray. That is perhaps our most important function. We chant the office — the same Divine Office required from every priest. We work. We sew and embroider the vestments used at Mass, make religious articles, do the gardening, bake and wash, and engage

in a score of other artistic and practical endeavours in order to support ourselves.

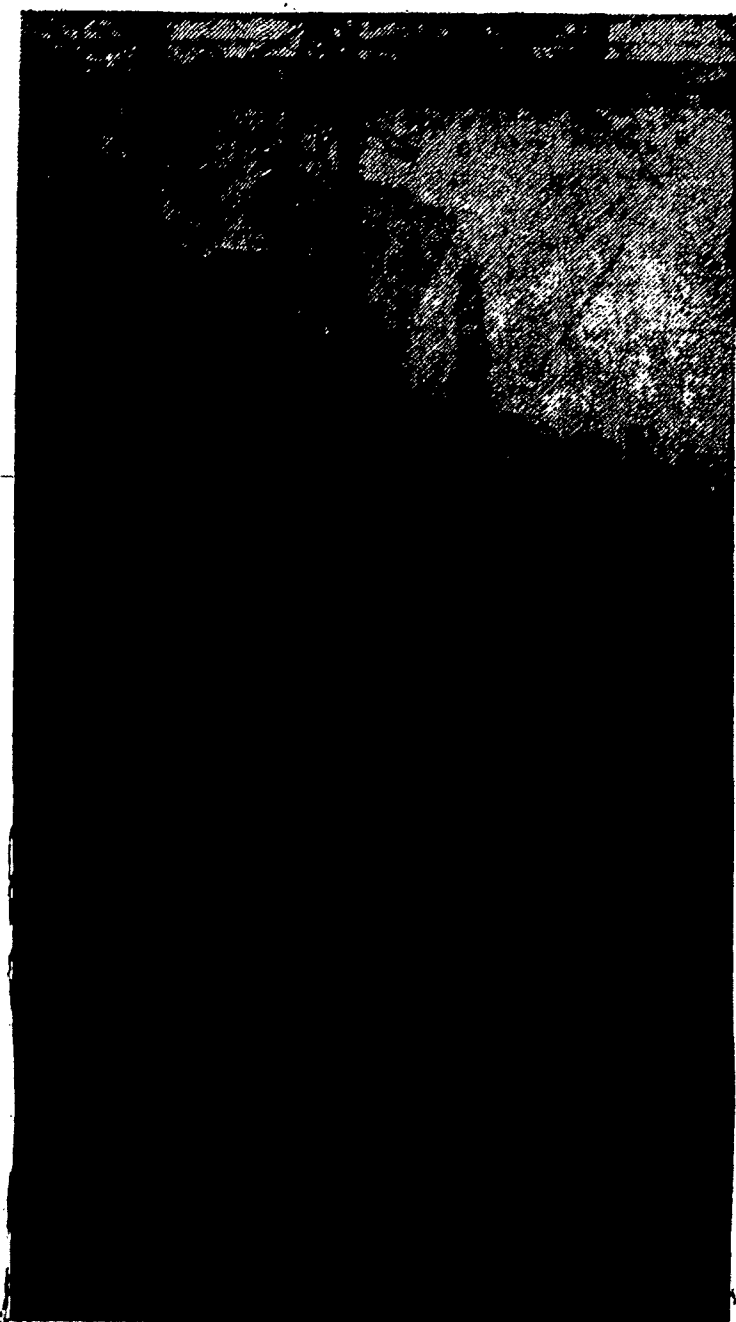
However, we haven't been able to paint a holy card or make a vestment that will sell for \$200,000. We need some help.

Why should you help us? We're praying for you.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, Dec. 21, 1962

STOCKS
BONDS
MUTUAL FUNDS

CRONIN & CO.
PATRICK C. CRONIN, Pres.
Established 1935
1210 GRANITE BLDG.
Rochester 4, N.Y.
HA 6-3405-3606
OPEN SAT. 'TIL NOON



Miss Heffer Receives Habit Of Dominican Nun

Miss Jacqueline Ann Heffer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Heffer of 14 Elwood Drive, received the Dominican habit in a Clothing Ceremony held at the Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira on Dec. 8.

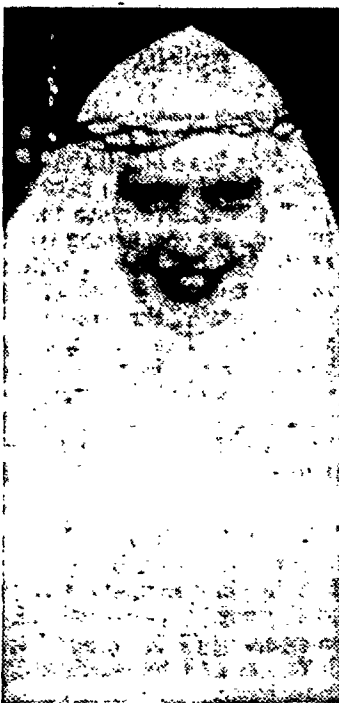
MISS HEFFER received the religious name of Sister Mary Stephen of the Holy Spirit.

Sister Mary Stephen started school at Holy Redeemer parish in 1948. She then attended St. Charles Borromeo School in Greece from the third to the eighth grades. She entered Nazareth Academy and was graduated from there in June, 1961.

On Jan. 6, 1962, she was accepted as a candidate at the Elmira monastery and on Feb. 10 she received the Rosary, signifying that she has become a postulant in the Order.

After ten months, the black postulant's garb was exchanged for the white of a novice in the Dec. 8 ceremony which included changing from a white gown to the putting aside of the worldly goods and attachments and the desire to live as a cloistered Dominican nun away from the world. Other parts of the ceremony included the cutting of Stephen's hair by the celebrant, giving her the crucifix and Rosary and is one of three girls which she would wear, and accepting for herself a crown of thorns from the celebrant.

Since 1944 when the foundation was begun in Elmira by eight Dominican nuns from week's Courier Journal.

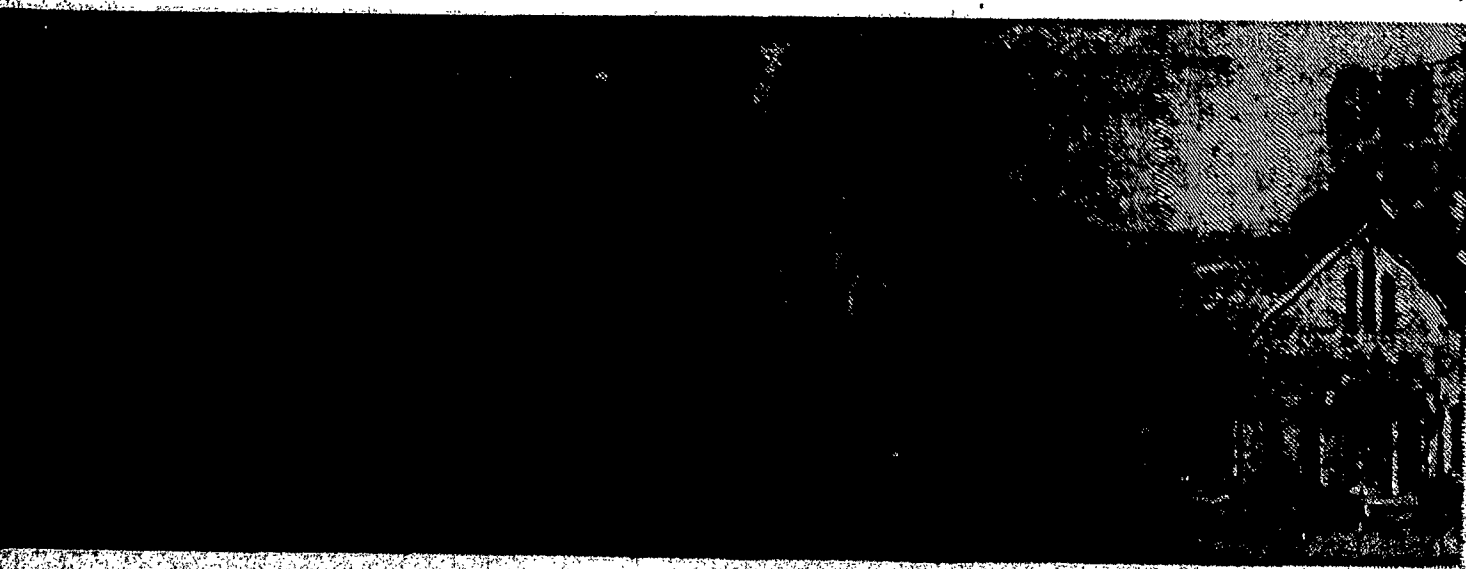
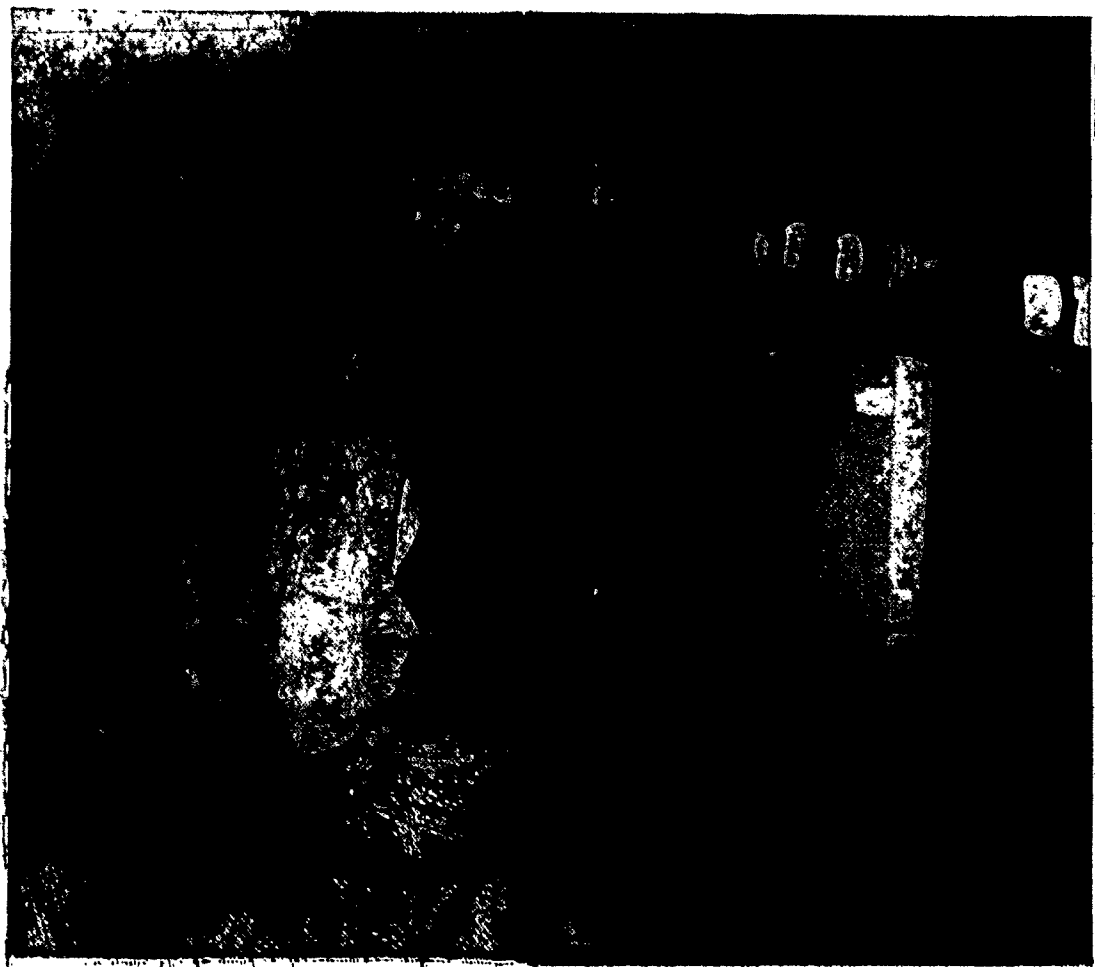


SISTER MARY STEPHEN

LEWIS NEARY
It's a gamble you needn't take when there's an expert who can pack your household goods, move them to your new home or store them in the finest fire-proof warehouse in your community . . . often at less cost than it would take to replace damaged goods. Free estimates on request.

BLANCHARD'S
Moving & Storage
Rochester's leading movers
LO 2-5980 - 320 Broad St.

REPRESENTING
ALLIED VAN LINES, Inc.
No. 1 on U. S. Highways No. 1 in Service-No. 1 in your community



CLIP & BRING TO:

AVE MARIA STUDIO
Your Center For Religious Goods and Christian Art
410 WESTMINSTER RD.

We will be pleased to have it laminated and returned to you for use as a handy book mark. Our gift to you . . .