

## St. Joseph Nuns Issue Smart New Publication

An 8-page, slick-paper and very readable newsletter entitled "Dialogue," is the newest evidence of the "aggiornamento" taking place in the Sisters of St. Joseph community. The first issue of the bi-monthly bulletin was issued late in January.

Primary aim of the good-looking publication is to increase communication among the members of the diocesan order, according to Reverend Mother Agnes Cecilia, head of the 950 member group.

Believing that it will also be of interest to parents and friends of the sisters, the nuns are making it available to any interested person for a yearly subscription rate of \$2.00.

Citing the appeal of Pope Paul VI in his "Ecclesiam Suam," for an ever-increasing need for "dialogue" among men, Mother Agnes Cecilia noted:

"Many of his words, directed to the whole Church, are particularly applicable to ourselves as religious women . . . As the realization of what the Lord wishes us to be and to do grows within us, there arises a great need for us to share these gifts of truth and grace with one another."

The newly-minted "Dialogue" will spotlight various places and works of the St. Joseph nuns, and provide an avenue of exchange of ideas and programs. Sixteen photos make the first issue an eye-appealing as well as readable production.

Typical of the friendly but professionally-competent style of the articles is the following, which occupies the center-spread of "Dialogue" Vol. 1, Number 1:



NAZARETH MOTHERHOUSE in its winter finery.

### Spotlight On The Motherhouse

The Motherhouse is the heart of our entire Community. It is here that most of us entered, received the habit, made our first vows, and received the cross marking our final profession. Here we return each year for our Retreat, and from here receive the various directives regulating our day-to-day lives as well as the annual assignment to our particular mission. It will probably be in the Motherhouse chapel that, for most of us, our funeral Mass will be sung.

But for the forty-one finally professed Sisters missioned at the Motherhouse this year—including Reverend Mother and the other Sisters of the Generalate—it is even more than that; it is their convent home. It is truly a home, too, in spite of the long halls and the high ceilings and the variety of the works which occupy the Sisters during the day—unlike our smaller convents of all-nurses or all-teachers.

From the Community Mass in the morning to David and Chet in the evening; from the new experience of non-rank working in the refectory to the triumph of having all the right pages for this Sunday's Office; from Hootenannies to Gospel discussions—this is our own Community life.

Each Motherhouse Sister is proud of her contribution to the apostolate whether it is ironing sheets or composing an English Mass or filling records; baking altar breads, or making altar cloths or governing the Community. She is concerned about racial problems, convinced that the "new breed" is here to stay, charmed by Father Rivers' Mass, curious to see the new habit of the Mercy Sisters, and absorbed beyond call when deep in Karl Rahner, a good mystery, or the latest article on Caroline and John-John. She delights in feast days, the late sleep on holidays, and a good movie; she despairs of ever learning all of the young Sisters' names or of ever getting caught up with her sewing.

In other words, life at the Motherhouse convent is very much like that lived at any of our other convents, not an "institutionalized" form as might be supposed simply from the size of the building and the fact that it houses the one hundred and twenty-eight postulants, novices, and juniors whose program is necessarily a more formal one.

In addition, there are some very special pleasures attached to living at the Motherhouse. For one thing, it is very exciting to be so close to the source of our Community government—to see the great women who compose our Council assemble each month, to be the first to experience such things as our new Sunday Office, to have the opportunity of meeting inspiring people like Bishop Coscia of Jatai, Brazil.

Another advantage is the proximity of both Nazareth and John Fisher colleges, enabling the Sister living at the Motherhouse to live at the Motherhouse. For one thing, it is very exciting to see the great women who compose our Council assemble each month, to be the first to experience such things as our new Sunday Office, to have the opportunity of meeting inspiring people like Bishop Coscia of Jatai, Brazil.

When the Motherhouse Sister is counting her blessings, there are many "little" things that she is grateful for, also: the spaciousness—both physical and moral—which enables her to move freely in both senses, giving her the comfort of privacy as well as the strength of companionship; the matchless beauty of the grounds; the unique loveliness of the singing in the chapel for Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, Forty Hours, and, indeed, for all special occasions; and, of course, the swimming pool!

She loves company, too—especially Sisters from the other convents and will welcome them warmly, showing off the new kitchen and serving room, offering them a cup of coffee and some calorie-loaded cookies, and settling them down in comfortable chairs in the community room for a good Sister-of-St.-Joseph visit.

Sister Mary John, Dialogue Editor



PAUSE THAT REFRESHES is enjoyed by two of the Sisters in the Community room.



REVEREND MOTHER Agnes Cecilia checks her date book.



HARD AT WORK at her sewing machine is Sister Rosario.



HOST MAKERS are Sister Catherine Joseph, on left, and Sister Thomas Mary.



SALAD FOR DINNER is carefully prepared by Sister Terence, Head cook, Sister Marie Suzanne (center) and an unidentified sister, back to camera.

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