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SISTER MARY PATRICE SISTER JOSEPH GILMARY SISTER RUTH AGNES

Superiors, Schools Office Changes by St. Joseph Nuns

Mother Agnes Cecilia, Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, announced this week the appointment for the first time of two regional superiors for the Community, an action recommended by the Sacred Congregation of Religious in Rome whenever the membership of a religious congregation approaches 1,000.

The two Sisters named to this position are: Sister Mary Patrice Messner, who will relinquish her office as one of the Diocesan Supervisors of Schools in order to assume her new duties; and Sister Joseph Gilmary Russell, who is completing her sixth year as principal of St. Mary's School in Auburn.

Replacing Sister Mary Patrice in the Education Office is Sister Ruth Agnes Kesselring, at present the principal of Sacred Heart Cathedral School, according to Monsignor William M. Kieck, Superintendent of Schools.

According to Mother Agnes Cecilia, regional superiors are appointed in order to effect swifter and more complete communication in the administration of a larger religious community.

These Sisters will have the authority, delegated by the Mother Superior, to grant the permissions, relay the suggestions and decisions, and implement the general revisions which would otherwise need to be channeled individually through the Mother Superior.

Sister Mary Patrice will be the regional superior in the Rochester area. She brings to this position a wide range of experience in working with and over communities.

Considering her teaching and principal at Nazareth Hall, St. Anthony's and Christ the King Elementary Schools in Rochester, Sister was for six years her Community's Supervisor of Schools, and for the past three years one of the Diocesan Supervisors.

In addition, she was elected by her Community in 1963 as Second Councillor to the Mother Superior, and has been active in this vital administrative post ever since, attending workshops and institutes on Sister-Formation, Religious Administration, and Canon Law. She has also headed the committee working on the revision of the Community's Constitutions, and assisted the Mother General in canonical visitation of the houses of the Community, the most recent being a two-week stay in their Brazilian mission.

Sister Joseph Gilmary will be the regional superior in the Auburn-Geneva-Elmira area continuing to live in Auburn where she is well-known.

Sister has taught at all levels of the elementary grades, and in several different schools of her Community. She is a char-

India Priest Explains

'Save a Family' Plan

Catholic families who would like to help the poor of hungry India, and on a personal basis, can do so with a new "Save A Family" plan.

Object of the plan, explained by an Indian priest who visited the Courier-Journal office recently, is to have an American family "adopt" a poor family in India and help them directly, preferably with a \$5 a month donation. Aid is sent directly by the sponsors to the needy family, and direct correspondence is encouraged.

Father Augustine J. Kandathil, currently doing graduate work at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, is enthusiastic about the program, which is already helping more than 1,000 of India's most needy families.

"Five dollars a month in India is about one-third of a laboring man's income," he reports, "and this much can make the difference between near starvation and at least subsisting for a family."

The direct approach (interested sponsor families are given the name and address of a family whose need has been verified by on-the-spot missionaries) has many benefits, Father Kandathil points out.

For one thing, organizational expenses are eliminated, and the full amount of aid goes directly to the intended family. The correlating of sponsor and receiving family is done by volunteers at St. Thomas University, whose only expenses are about \$15-\$20 a month for stamps.

Almost as vital, he feels, is the personal note introduced by the direct family-to-family technique.

"The idea that someone personally cares, is almost as important as the money itself," he feels.



FR. KANDATHIL

The 44-year-old Indian priest admits that the great bulk of foreign relief must be carried by government and other organized charitable efforts. The sheer enormity of the problem demands this. But he also feels strongly that the family-to-family assistance has a vital role to play.

"Since the aid is sent by the benefactor directly to the poor

family, he knows exactly where his help is going, and who is benefitting from it," he points out. "Then too, the personal relationship is established between the two families which sustains the interest of the benefactor in his 'adopted family.'"

"We don't ask anybody to commit themselves for any special length of time," he states, "but we do ask them to let us know if they want to discontinue aid, so that we can make other arrangements for the family."

Father Kandathil was given the idea from a fellow-professor at St. Thomas University, Dr. Leo Ferrari, who operates the coordination of the plan with some student volunteers at the Canadian school.

A Ph.D. from Notre Dame University, the Indian priest is doing post-doctoral research and teaching part time at the university. Whenever he can get away for a few days, he publicizes the plan in the U.S.A. and Canada.

For information about the plan, interested families should write to:

SAVE A FAMILY PLAN
St. Thomas University
Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Missioner, Father Lesch To Mark Silver Jubilee

Father Albinus Lesch, C.P., a member of the Passionist Mission Band in the Philippine Islands, is visiting his mother, Mrs. Mary J. Lesch at her home, 14 Easterly Ave., Auburn, on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as a priest.

Father Albinus (Raymond Lesch) son of the late Frank J. Lesch, and Mrs. Lesch, was ordained by Cardinal Cushing in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, on May 1, 1941 and offered his first Solemn Mass in St. Mary's Church the following Sunday.

In observance of his twenty-fifth anniversary a group of friends are sponsoring a get-together in his honor. Anyone wishing to participate with them, is asked to contact Miss Isabel Stapleton or Edwin Nolan. The event will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 26, at the Auburn Golf and Country Club. Reservations would be appreciated by June 19.

Father Albinus graduated from St. Mary's School in 1926 and Auburn Academic High School in 1930. After a year's study at St. Andrew's Seminary, he entered the Passionist Order. Following ordination he taught

at various Passionist Monasteries and then served as Air Force Chaplain for ten years being stationed in Alaska, the Philippines and Japan. Resigning from the Air Force in 1956 he was assigned to the Mission Band of the Passionist Fathers and has been stationed in the Philippines since November, 1958.

After a short vacation with his mother and sister (Miss Mary E. Lesch) and brother Dr. Gerard A. Lesch and family, he will return to the Philippines.

Council Topic

A discussion on the Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church will take place on Sunday, June 19, at 3:15 p.m. at the Carmelite Monastery in Waverly.

Parting part in the discussion will be Father Claude, prior of the Monastery, and lay members of the monastery's third order.

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Pastoral Workshop Next Week

The halls of St. John Fisher College will house a unique "school" session this coming week. Two hundred priests, some of whom have not been to classes for 20 years, others who just left the classroom this May, will assemble for a Pastoral Workshop.

The goal of the 4 day session is to provide lectures and time for discussion and exchange of ideas for priests who are faced with the challenge of working with their parishioners to put into effect the constitutions and decrees of Vatican Council II.

The topics to be considered will be 4 of the most talked-about issues today: parish structure, liturgy, religious instruction, and counseling. Priests, not only from Rochester, but also from several neighboring dioceses, will attend the workshop on the East Avenue campus.

Seton Groups

WEST BRANCH of Seton Workers of St. Mary's Hospital was to meet June 14 at the home of Mrs. Harry J. Rehak of Sherman St.

WEST BRANCH to meet in the home of Mrs. William Netzman, 243 Curtice Rd., Thursday, June 23.

WEST BRANCH celebrated the 30th anniversary at a dinner at Tradway Inn, Tuesday, June 7.



Medicare Approves Selma Hospital

SISTER MICHAEL ANN, S.S.J., administrator of Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma, Alabama, is shown signing the hospital's agreement to participate as a provider of hospital services to Medicare patients beginning July 1. Looking on is Dr. John W. Moore, president of the medical staff. Officials at Good Samaritan view the Medicare approval as a monumental achievement for its hospital that had a humble beginning in 1944 as a clinic hospital serving primarily the Negro sick of West Central Alabama. Good Samaritan is owned by the Society of St. Edmund, a society of Catholic priests and brothers, and is operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

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