



Fathers Elmer Heindl and Leonard Kelly chat before the opening of the meeting.



Sisters Florian and Anne Margaret show their tour group one section of the Postulants' living quarters.



Sister Dorothy Agnes, Co-ordinator of the Community's Sisters-Formation program, talks with one of the priest-guests as the tours begin to form.



Miss Margaret has breakfast with her friends after Sunday Mass.



A storybook on the doorstep in the sunshine ... no easier way to make a child's heart happy.

St. Martin dePorres Center

In Defiance of Desperation

By MONICA REEVES

"Inner," says the American College Dictionary, means situated "farther within." The inner city, to those who live within its boundaries, has often meant a life situated farther within the clutch of poverty and its accompanying desperation.

St. Martin dePorres Center is providing inner city residents with the opportunity to learn how to defy this desperation a hold on their lives.

Located at 537 North Clinton Ave., Rochester, the center has been in operation since 1962. Its founder, Margaret Muchard, was first made aware of the need for just such a place through her work with the Legion of Mary. After going to the homes of the Puerto Rican element of the city to inquire about their spiritual life, she soon came to the realization that it's pretty hard to pray when you're starving.

Telling people to have faith doesn't do much for the pangs of hunger and the frostbitten hand. And so, St. Martin dePorres Puerto Rican Information Center came into being.

Originally established for Puerto Ricans, it soon became evident that those of many various ethnic backgrounds were in need of just the sort of help that the center was providing. Consequently, it opened up its doors and the hearts of its volunteers to all.

Initially the center rented 9 rooms, and after enlisting the aid of landlord Sam Polis and neighborhood handymen, 26 gallons of paint were put on the walls.

After a fire this past April, the neighborhood felt certain that "Miss Margaret" would

abandon her post at the center. To everyone's amazement, the extensive damage only served as an added incentive for this undaunted, energetic woman. The neighborhood rallied together, the landlord stepped in once more to help out, and Miss Margaret and crew were back in business again.

"St. Martin dePorres is a family center," Mrs. Muchard said. And the activities of the center bear her out. There is an adult group which meets every other Monday night to hear such speakers as the mayor of Rochester, Stephen May and Father Michael O'Sullivan, a Dominican missionary in Africa. After the business meeting and speaker, there's a social hour which provides the group a chance to discuss what the speaker had to say, catch up on local gossip, and just generally enjoy themselves.

Miss Margaret conducts a CCD class on Friday mornings for 4th graders. On Monday and Wednesday afternoons a Venezuelan woman teaches English to new arrivals in the U.S. Almost every afternoon of the week finds the center's kitchen and sewing rooms filled, as volunteers conduct cooking and sewing classes.

One activity about which Mrs. Muchard is especially enthused is the recently formed children's choir. The carefully chosen group will sing at such places as St. Anne's parish, McQuaid Jesuit High School and Holy Name of Jesus parish during the holiday season. They hope to continue this project throughout the year.

Although it has yet to ask for volunteers, the center can boast of 500 truly dedicated high school, college and young married volunteers. St. Bernard's

Seminary workers alone number 40. The Big Brother Program, a nationally known group which provides a father image

(Continued on Page 6)

Bishop Sheen Authors Book For Christmas

The renowned works of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, whose widely read column is a weekly feature in this newspaper, have been assembled in a new colorfully illustrated periodical "Inspirations" appearing for the first time this Christmas season. A second edition with his writings devoted to Easter is scheduled to follow.

In this initial edition of Christmas "Inspirations," as in those to follow, are the stimulating views of his Excellency known and respected for his highly successful career in radio and television, as well as for his lectures and philosophical writings. He reveals in vivid style the full meaning of the Yuletide holiday with his thought-provoking articles, essays and beloved poems.

A striking color portrait of the Bishop is reproduced on the heavy lacquered cover. Some 40 spectacular illustrations highlight the colorfully produced pages. Reproductions of religious art are outstanding in richness and clarity of detail. There are also many contemporary scenes, including remarkable photography. One in particular is the Chapel at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Priests Visit Motherhouse, New Policies Explained

Several weeks ago the 453 priests in the Rochester Diocese received a letter from Mother Agnes Cecilia, Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, inviting them to the Motherhouse on Nov. 15 or 16 for a three-hour program designed to acquaint the area clergy with the Community's present policies in several vital areas.

More than 200 of the priests responded and the program on both days was well attended.

Mother Agnes Cecilia welcomed the priests, explaining as her primary reason for initiating such a project the fact that there have been so many changes in religious life in these past few "Vatican II years." She felt it would be of great interest to those so closely associated with the Sisters in the apostolate and in the guidance of young people.

Sister Mary John, the Public Relations Director of the Community, then spoke on their basic administration structures by means of a new organiza-

tion chart set up by Mother Agnes Cecilia and her Council members. Sister also outlined the communications program, stressing particularly the two Community publications, "Dialogue" and "Contact."

Next on the program was Sister Anne Mary, Vocation Director, who talked about the preparation and admission of postulants for this Community.

Referring to the loose-leaf vocation notebook which she has distributed to every parish in the Diocese, Sister noted that, although there might be variations in some details, most of the points covered in both her talk and this not book, would be applicable to young women desiring to enter any religious congregation, not just the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester.

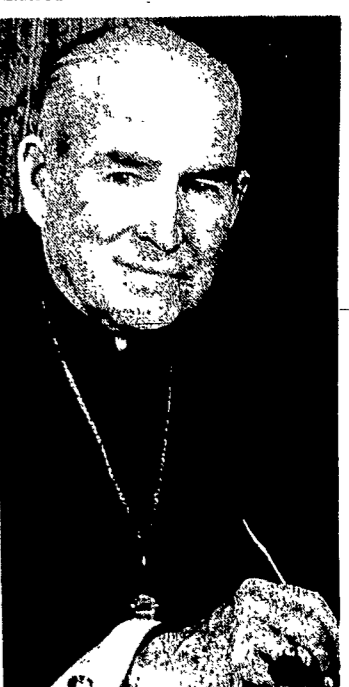
Sister was followed by Sister Dorothy, a member of the faculty of Nazareth College as well as the Director of the Sisters' education. Sister explained the educational policies and procedures which they follow in order to meet both the needs and the abilities of the individ-

uals and the apostolic needs of the Community's many works.

After a short question period, the priests were taken, in small groups and with Sister-guides, on a tour of the Motherhouse which included the Postulate, Novitiate, Juniorate and Generalate.

The tours and the program ended with a buffet in the Motherhouse dining room, giving a chance for more discussion and visiting.

Comments as the guests left included hearty thanks to Mother Agnes Cecilia for the opportunity and recommendations for "more of this sort of thing."

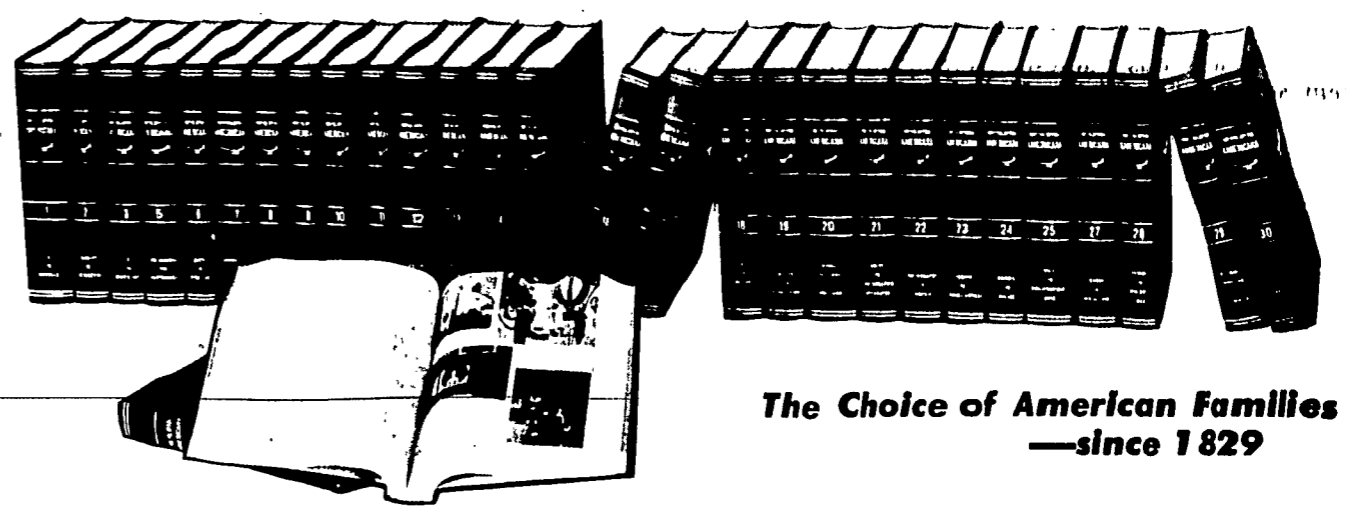


To Be Honored

Rochester 4th Degree Knights of Columbus will honor Bishop Kearney at their third annual "Clergy Night" dinner at the K. of C. clubrooms, 513 Monroe Ave., Tuesday, Nov. 29, at 7 p.m. Monsignor Richard K. Burns will be toastmaster. Reservations may be made by calling Thomas Grosodonia, Andrew Knaut or Bernard Bromka.

The Catholic COURIER
Vol. 78 No. 8
Friday, Nov. 25, 1966
Page 5
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