

# What Happened to Mother Superior? Nun Explains

By GEORGE BARMANN  
(NC News Service)

Dayton, Ohio — A nun who heads a religious community which is without superiors — the Immaculate Heart of Mary nuns of Los Angeles — answered the question, "What Happened to Mother Superior?" in a talk here.

Sister Anita Caspary said she is called "president" of the community, but formerly the post was designated as "chief executive officer" and, before that, "mother superior."

Sister Anita said: "In five years, I have lost my place at the head of the table, my office of leading community prayers, or even wearing the worn-out or faded habit so that Sisters could be proud of me, the 21st asked my will, my pleasure, about everything from the time a trip would be taken to the appropriateness of table settings, the ability of nuns to publish, to paint, to speak in innumerable and varied situations."

Dressed in a red suit, which she told her audience was not Margaret Kenny Plans to Retire

Miss Margaret C. Kenny, administrative director of Rochester elementary schools, will retire June 30 after 39 years' service with the City School District.

Miss Kenny for many years has been on the board of directors of Genesee Settlement House and the Catholic Youth Organization, and on the lay board of Nazareth Academy.

Schools, she predicted, "will be transformed, revamped and indeed revolutionized in the next generation."

Miss Kenny declared that "the elimination of racial prejudice, discrimination and injustice is the great moral and social imperative of our time."

Education, she added, is the "most effective and powerful means of achieving this objective."

'Moods in Music' Scheduled at Nazareth Academy

"Moods in Music," a concert of various musical themes, will be presented by two singing groups and a jazz combo band at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at Nazareth Academy Auditorium, Lake Avenue.

Religious hymns, Negro spirituals and show tunes will feature the varied program.

Participating will be the American Chamber Singers, and the St. Cecilia Choir of high school girls—both groups from Holy Rosary parish under the direction of Don Meminger—and Nick Zinni's Combo.

Tickets, at \$1.75, may be obtained at Trant's and at Duke Spinner's Music stores, or at Nazareth on the night of the concert.

St. Joseph's Plans Procession May 18

A procession, with rosary and benediction to honor the Blessed Virgin is scheduled from 3 to 4 p.m., Sunday, May 18, at St. Joseph's Church, Franklin Street, Rochester. The procession will begin at the outdoor shrine and proceed into the church.

Anyone who needs transportation or who can provide rides should call St. Joseph's at 454-2244. Donations for flowers will be accepted at the church and floral arrangements should be delivered by May 17.

Forty Hours

Forty Hours devotions will open May 11 at St. Francis of Assisi and St. Philip—New Rochelle; St. Patrick's, Elmira; Apalachin, Hammondsport, Henrietta, Leicester, Livonia Center and Ovid.

"cardinal red," Sister Anita said her community no longer has any superiors. She told the nuns of various communities in her audience that she was "not setting up a model" for them to follow, or pretending that her community was utopian.

The IHM nuns regard "coerced uniformity" as a negation of the meaning of community, she said. The Sisters abandoned the notion that community was a "kind of institution, a structure" and, one directing choices and closing off alternatives, one governing in hierarchical fashion.

Gradually the concept has emerged that community is not an institution, but a quality of relationships, Sister Anita continued.

"This notion of community is based on trust and sensitivity to the needs of others rather than on minute rules and regulations," Sister Anita continued. "Community in this context is thought of as providing ground for the richness of relationships to others, both among the Sisters and beyond this to the greater community."

Sister Anita said the head of the community no longer issues directives and that Sisters manage their personal lives on their own, "hopefully with sensitivity and concern" for others in the community. The word "permission" is seldom used, she added.

In the Los Angeles archdiocese, where the major concentration of IHM nuns work, the Sisters still conduct their own college, high school and hospital. Many are now in other than Church-related institutions, especially in inner-city public schools. In these schools, "they give stability where the turnover has been great" and they exert "a profound influence," Sister Anita said.

The IHM Sisters have split into two groups—composed of the more traditional nuns and those who prefer the new ways—as a result of the long controversy.

Some IHM nuns live in apartments and a few even live alone. There are small groups of IHM Sisters outside California—in a number of states and two Canadian provinces. The community numbers 425 nuns.

Neither the leader nor any one else can "form community," Sister Anita said, "but she sees that the conditions and opportunities are provided, the times and places where friendship and the exchange of ideas, com-

munal worship and celebration shall take place."

Although a few IHM nuns remain the habit, "most prefer to be identified with the persons we serve," Sister Anita said.

The IHM president said that she believes some communities will choose to keep the habit, "and for them that will be the right choice." She added there is no reason various houses of nuns "couldn't follow a more traditional mode of life," if Sisters so elected. However, it is better that communities divided sharply on their life styles be separated from one another, she added.

MAIZE FOR BIAFRA — 100 tons of maize seed was obtained from Geneva (R.N.S.) — Maize (tailed by Colombia Caritas and seed from Colombia) is being flown to New York where U.S. down into Biafra to help Catholic Relief Services took place in that famine-stricken land over and shipped it to Sao to grow part of their own surplus for the shuttle flights vival crop. A consignment of into Biafra.

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