

Visitor Typifies New Role for Cenacle Sisters

When Mary Louise Moore left her home in St. Louis in 1949 to enter the Congregation of the Cenacle, she was prepared never to see her home again and to travel very little.

This week, newly returned from Rome, Italy, and St. Louis, she visited the Cenacle in Rochester and left Monday for Boston. Next year she will travel around the world.

Part of Sister Moore's job as one of four members of a council which assists the superior general of the Cenacle Congregation in Rome

is to visit Cenacle convents in 10 countries. She was at the Rochester retreat center for four days to observe the work of the 18 Sisters now in the building at 693 East Ave.

The Rochester center, known formally as the Congregation of Our Lady of the Retreat, in the Cenacle, conducts retreats for married women, couples, business and professional organizations, college, high school and elementary students, nurses, single women, and interfaith groups.

Lately the Sisters have been broadening their apostolate. One of the Sisters here is in fulltime Newman Apostolate work at the University of Rochester, another is committed to inner city work for a year.

Sister Moore sees in this expansion of activity a possibility of changing the trend in religious vocations. She added that the Cenacle congregation has not had a great drop in vocations and, "has had very few defections; perhaps because those who come to us usually are a bit older and more mature when they enter."

Sister herself was a librarian before she joined the congregation, and entered after having made three Cenacle retreats and having observed the work done by the Sisters.

"I was not attracted to teaching," she said, "but I found in retreat work the way in which I thought I could best serve God."

Sister Moore represented the Cenacle Sisters of the United States at the congregation's recent convention in Rome, and was elected to the four-member council. She is optimistic about the "new directions" the Cenacle is taking.

"Change is here," she noted. "It is essential and it is normal. It won't be easy, but I'm glad I'm around and I'm enjoying it."

Cenacle Sisters, she remarked, are experimenting with changes in their dress. Modern habits are better for traveling, driving and other requirements of modern life, she said. However, she added, while some members of the order are wearing completely secular dress, she still favors "some sort of sign" that she is a nun in the clothing they wear.



Mother Mary Louise Moore, (right) of St. Louis, one of four councillors of worldwide Congregation of the Cenacle, last weekend made semi-official visit to Rochester's Cenacle Retreat House on East Avenue. She chats with two of the congregation here—Sister Lucy O'Connor (left) and Sister Sadie Nesser.

Lourdes Pupils Sing

'Those Kids Are Dynamite'

By JOHN DASH

'Twas the end of the day a week before Christmas and all through the Midtown Mall glassy-eyed shoppers trudged homeward beside their shopping bags.

When quick as a flash 150 kids started running through the crowd shouting at the top of their lungs.

A middle-aged matron wailed, "Good Heavens."

Then the pandemonium hushed. The children assembled on stage in front of the Christmas tree and started dancing and singing. "If more people were for people, all people everywhere, there'd be a lot less people to worry about and a lot more people who care."

"Those kids are dynamite," a man said; and cold chills ran up the backs of everyone there.

Kenneth Sarkis appeared, snapping his fingers and swinging his arms, directing the whole shebang.

The children call themselves the UBA, the Unity Builders' Association; and the ring-leader is black-headed 25-year-old Sarkis (or Kabenabeh Sabrahkabis, as he is called in Abtakk, a grade school language in which he claims fluency).

The UBA is composed of the junior high schoolers from Our Lady of Lourdes School in Brighton. This year marks their second appearance at Midtown. They entertained at the 1968 final report dinner of the Community



KENNETH SARKIS

Chest, and have sung and danced for people at Monroe Community Hospital, Bristol 50 Acres and Bristol Mountain. Last summer, they were featured in "Enter the Young," a local program on WROC-TV, sponsored by the Jewish Antidiscrimination League.

Sarkis is a teacher at Our Lady of Lourdes. For the past four years he has taught Language Arts and Religion in the junior high school. This year, he says, he also teaches "Sarkis' History to a Sarkis-plague-stricken eighth grade."

Besides his work at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sarkis also is a "self-appointed sheik at St. Nicholas Church," a Byzantine Rite Church in Rochester, and moderator of a youth group there.

Sarkis says he likes teaching because "you get the summers off." Last summer

he toured Eastern Europe. The summer before he hitchhiked across Canada.

"But he also likes teaching because of the children. 'There's a natural spontaneity to them,' he says. 'It makes them superior to adults in sincerity, creativity optimism.'"

As he talks about children, and especially about the exuberant UBA one suddenly realizes that the UBA is more than a collection of entertainers. The UBA is a life style.

"They have a missionary conviction," he says. "They have a healthy hippie-ism. They are high on life."

"What gives the UBA its real heart is the Spirit. Call it the Holy Spirit or the Spirit of Christ, that's really what it is," he says.

Paranthood Plan Fund Opposed

Corning — Twenty priests, nearly all from parishes in Steuben County, last week wrote letters to the county Board of Supervisors to oppose a request from the Planned Paranthood of Chemung-Corning for \$10,000 in county funds.

The board, which has made no decision, was told last month that the money would be used to pay three persons to provide family planning information in the county, operate a clinic in Corning and start new ones in Hornell, Canisteo and Wayland.



A Singing Affair

The outdoor "Family Sing Out" organized by the Southwest Ecumenical Mission ended indoors, at refreshment tables in Westminster Presbyterian Church hall. Above, Mrs. Lillian Humphrey presides at the punch bowl. At right, the Rev. Bruce Ledwith, pastor of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and his wife, Mildred, sing Christmas favorites for their neighbors at the SWEM.

SS Office Lists Hours

"The Rochester Social Security Office will continue to be open every Thursday evening during the coming year," announced Joseph Tomaino, Social Security Administration district manager.

He said, however, that beginning with Thursday evening, Jan. 7, the office will remain open until 8 p.m. instead of 9. Tomaino explained that normally, few persons visited the office between 8 and 9 and that area residents will not be inconvenienced by the earlier and more economical closing.

The purpose of the Thursday evening hours is to accommodate those who are unable to get to the office during the regular hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The office is at 107 Clinton Ave. No and the telephone number is 325-6640.

Warning Issued On Rabid Bats

Dr. Wendell R. Ames, Monroe County health director, has issued a second warning to residents to avoid contact with bats because they may be rabid.

Dr. Ames' latest warning follows laboratory confirmation of the presence of rabies virus in a bat that had gained entrance to a home on the east side of the city. He said anti-rabies treatment has been instituted in a child in the home because of presumed exposure to the virus.

It was the second case of rabies in a bat in Monroe County this year. The first case of rat rabies was confirmed in August. In October a case of canine rabies was confirmed in an unlicensed dog that was not immunized against the disease as is required by county law.

In addition, Dr. Ames advised that anyone who has been bitten by a bat should seek medical attention immediately.



Gift-Giving Follows CCD Classes

Father Garcia Martin of Spanish Apostolate in Rochester presides at traditional gift-exchange following awarding of diplomas to 56 members of Spanish-speaking community who last week completed 16-week course in Christian Doctrine conducted by four Mexican nuns serving the Apostolate.



Santa Presides at Immaculate

Santa Claus (alias George McDade) listens to urgent requests from more than 250 children who attended annual Christmas party in Immaculate Conception School Hall, Rochester, last Sunday.

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