

Sisters Hit the Road For Rural Education

BY MARY ANN GINNERTY

King Ferry — A car, road map, lunch bag and thermos are standard equipment for two Sisters of the Order of St. Joseph of Rochester, as each day, they leave the farmhouse on Lake Road in King Ferry, which serves as their home and headquarters of the Rural Education Center. The Sisters carry their program of Christian education into the homes of parishioners in the 450-square-mile area between Auburn and Ithaca.

The center is staffed by Sister Helen Goschke, who has been with the program since its inception in 1968; Sister Denise, retired, and Sister Francis Cecilia, temporarily replacing Sister Elaine Theresa Mulchey.

Originally, a trio of Sisters established the rural education center at the request of Father Daniel Hogan, pastor of St. Bernard's in Scipio Center, St. Hillary's in Genoa and St. Isaac Jogues, Fleming, and Father Richard Stanton, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake, King Ferry, and All Saints Mission Church in Ludlowville.

Sister Helen Goschke explained, "The pastors wanted us to come to the area as they recognized the religious education of area children could not be met, nor was there sufficient training readily accessible to prepare teachers for the program. We came primarily to work with adults, organize and supervise schools of religion and fill the role of parish assistants. The center is supported through the combined efforts of the parishes served."

This type of work is a new field which had its beginnings when Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, then bishop of the Rochester Diocese, requested sisters from the Order of St. Joseph be trained to do adult education and parish work. But, it was the urgent need expressed by the local pastors that resulted in the center's rural setting.

Initially the sisters visited all the homes of the parishioners for census taking. Arrangements were made for released time in the schools, but distance and availability of facilities prompted the tailoring of religious education schedules to individual parish circumstances. Under the supervision of the rural education center, the parishes' ability to assume responsibility for

their own program has increased.

The adult education emphasis has not been on teaching in the usual sense, but on involving parishioners in the updated teachings of the Church through discussion groups in the homes, lecture series and individual counseling.

"Response to our adult education program has been rewarding," says Sister Helen Goschke. "Our experience has shown people in this day and age do want to become involved in religion. We have been encouraged by the rapport which is developing as the parishioners and we share the enrichment of knowledge of the teachings of Christ."

Three meetings each year are held for the parents of the children about to make their First Communion. The theology of the Eucharist is presented with emphasis on making it a family affair.

As Sister commented, "We feel that unless religion is fostered and encouraged, in the home, the child will be deprived of a truly meaningful relationship with God and his ability to grow in that relationship will be stunted."

"We are gratified by the number of people who are seeking us out so we may counsel with them on these personal religious difficulties which can burden everyday living."

'Life' Group Urges Drive For New Abortion Law

The Rochester Right to Life Committee called attention this week to two legislative bills which, it said, "would restore the protection of the abortion law to both mother and child."

In a resolution, the group's executive committee asked for support of the bills and urged people who agree with them to barrage their legislators with letters and telegrams on Senate Bill 20 and Assembly 2774. Neither has been brought out for floor action.

At least 120,000 abortions were performed in this state in the first six months of the liberalized law, the committee said.

The Right to Life Committee, headed by Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney and Robert J. Edelman, can be reached through Box 4763, Rochester, 14612.

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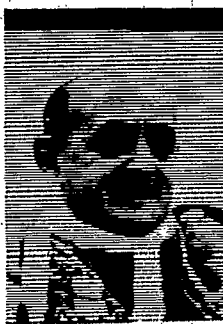
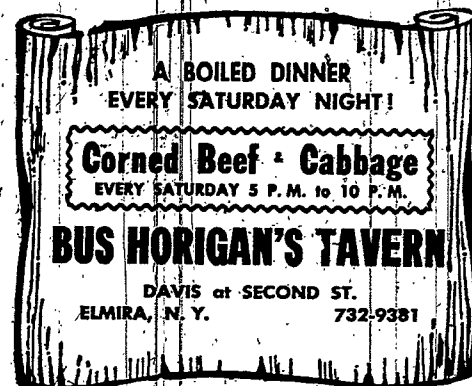
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When are you happiest? Happiness lies in giving. You're happiest when you give yourself to the people who need you most. . . . A mother, for instance, hums with happiness when she bathes and dresses her baby. A good nurse always has time for a smile. Good fathers whistle at their work. . . . The best sort of giving involves more than writing checks—still, how better can you help the children now who need you overseas? Boys and girls who are blind, lepers, deaf-mutes, orphans—your money gifts, large and small, will feed them, teach them, cure them, give them a chance in life. . . . Want to be happier this Easter? Give some happiness to a child. You'll be happy, too!

HAPPINESS IS A SISTER

In Erumathala, south India, a young Indian girl in training to be a Sister of the Destitute will learn, among other things, how to care for orphans. Her training costs \$300 all told (\$12.50 a month, \$150.00 a year); a small investment for a Sister's lifetime of service. Like to be her sponsor? We'll send you her name and she will write to you.

HAPPINESS IS A HOME OF THEIR OWN

For only \$200 in Ernakulam you can build a decent house for a family that now sleeps on the sidewalks. Simply send your check to us. Archbishop Parecattil will write to thank you also.

HAPPINESS IS CLOTHING

Brighten the heart of a blind boy in the Gaza Strip (where Samson lived). \$3 gives him shoes, \$5 clothes, \$10 a set of braille readers!

HAPPINESS IS A SCHOOL

Where there is none in south India, you can build a six-room permanent school for only \$3,200. Archbishop Mar Gregorios will select the village, supervise construction and write to thank you. The children will pray for you, and you may name the school for your favorite saint, in your loved ones' memory!

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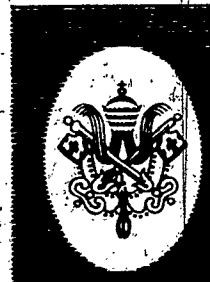
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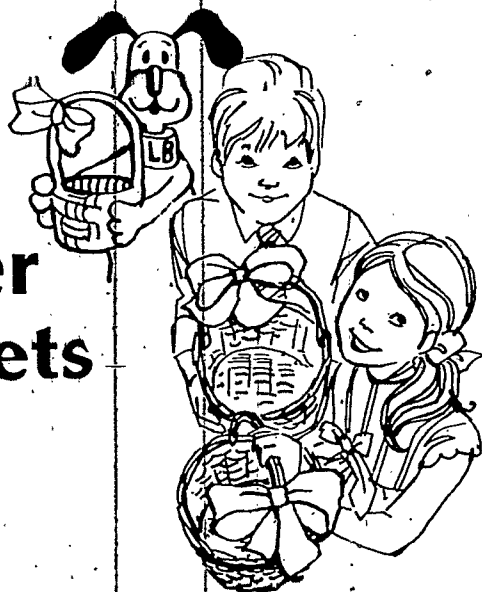
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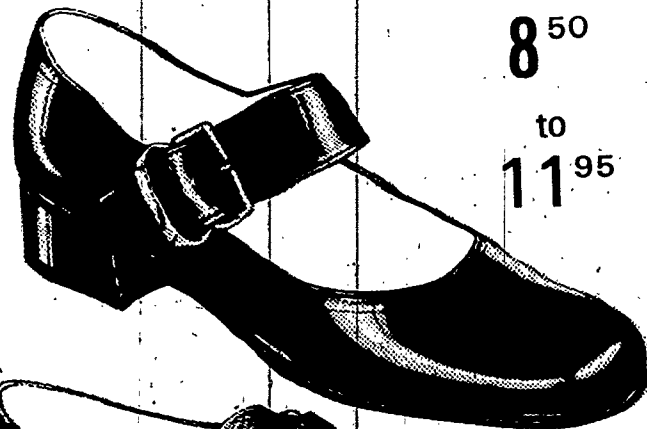
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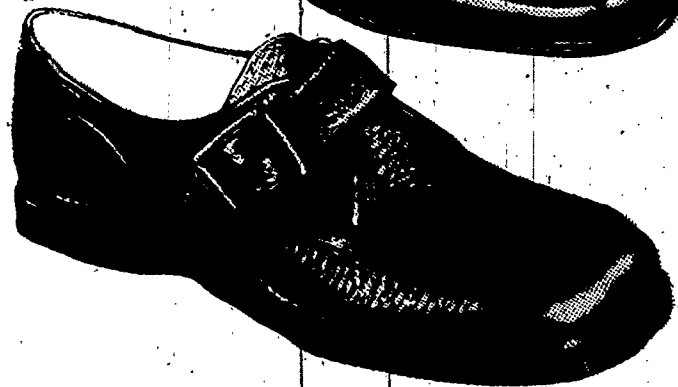
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