



Sister Sandra and one of her released-time pupils pore over a book as part of the Fairport program.

'Faithful, Wise Service'

Pope Praises Pastor

By CECELIA VIGGO

By now, Rochesterians take Fairport's School of Religion for granted. But a recent letter from the Vatican to Father Leonard Kelly, has put the school in the limelight again.

Father Kelly received the missive bearing the impressive coat of arms of the Vatican Secretariat of State in response to a film and letter he had sent the Pope in November. The film, made in 1965, shows the work of the School of Religion.



Key people at Holy Angels are, from left, social worker James Cimino; Sister Claire; the Director, Sister M. Charity; and Mother-Superior Francis.

Holy Angels Home: A Place of Hope

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

Several times a week in this diocese, charitable people hold benefit card parties for various institutions, but May 5 the card players will have a chance to play at Cutler Union Auditorium for a different type of cause. "We want to clear up the mistaken idea," says Mother Superior Francis, "that Holy Angels School is a home for pregnant girls."

The Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, who administer Holy Angels, "have no facilities for maternal cases," according to Mother Francis. "We run a full-time boarding school for about 28 girls who have been placed here by the courts because of poor social adjustment and family conditions."

The Holy Angels Guild card party will mark the 40th year of support for the home by Catholic laywomen. Nearly 2,000 Rochester women belong to the guild.

At Holy Angels, said Mother Francis, the 11-to-16 year-old girls come from broken or disturbed homes, "because they need a neutral setting." The lay teaching staff and the Sisters do not try to provide a foster home. Instead, they emphasize group activities and the youngsters' own accomplishments.

Many of the girls come to Holy Angels, says Mother Francis, with no feeling of personal worth; they may act belligerent out of desperation. Holy Angels

therapy tries to build confidence by giving a girl a chance to succeed at something quickly.

Mother Francis tells the story of one girl who had been excluded from most city schools before she came to Holy Angels. Only 11, the child faced a home situation where the stepfather needed psychiatric care and the children bore the brunt of his problems. "The wonder is," said Mother Francis, "that the girl was only two years behind her class."

When Mother Francis would praise the student's work, the only response was, "You have to say that because you're a nun." But because her teacher had saved the girl's papers for six months and could show her definite improvement in concrete form, the girl began to build the self-confidence she needed.

Not all rehabilitation takes place inside the class rooms. Holy Angels also employs two lay social workers and a visiting psychiatrist. The girls perform lawn work and other duties around the two cottages and the older main building on Winton Road.

But she also looks to the future with some concern. Promiscuity among adolescents, she says, begins earlier. What used to be a problem among 15 and 16-year-olds, now is down to 11 and 10. "It seems that Holy Angels, however, has at least some of the answers to these problems.

By SISTER MARY JOHN

As a result of a meeting of representatives of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy with the Priests' Council, the diocese last week announced that all teaching Sisters in the parochial schools of the diocese will get a \$300 salary raise for the school year 1971-72, bringing their annual salary to \$2150.

The figures in this article are from the Sisters of St. Joseph which, with 800 Sisters, is the largest religious congregation in the Diocese; however, its financial "system" is comparable to that used by all the Congregations of teaching Sisters in the Diocese.

In this school year 1970-71, the approximately 350 teaching Sisters of St. Joseph in diocesan parochial schools are receiving a salary of \$1850 each. One half is retained by the parish convent and is used to cover the costs of food, clothing, ordinary medical and educational

The Pope praised Father Kelly for "faithful and wise service to your people." The praise is apt for 16 years ago, Father Kelly, newly appointed pastor of Assumption Church, decided that a parochial school could not serve the needs of the parish young people, and would be too heavy a financial burden for all the parishioners.

His answer to the problem was revolutionary. He planned and erected a school building within view of the local public school. He sought the help of the Mission Sisters of the Sacred Heart, built a convent and began operation of Rochester's first school of Religion. The logic behind the move was simple: make most efficient use of the public school's released time allotment for religious education.

The proximity of the school of religion to the public school eliminated the need for busing and transportation time. The Mission Helpers provided competent and thorough religious instruction; they also began training programs for parish volunteer CCD teachers.

One other factor is vital to the success of the school of religion — the cooperation of the parents. "Within its one hour a week format, the school can only direct and motivate," Father Kelly emphasized. "It's up to the parents to create a Christian environment and set a Christian example."

Father Kelly explained that school staff tries to maintain communication with parents through bulletin notes, talks from the pulpit, and personal visits. Parents are required to take an active role in preparing their children for the reception of the sacraments. Eighty parishioners are also involved in the school as volunteer CCD teachers and teachers' aides.

The school is well-equipped with modern teaching materials and audio-visual aids.

"There is no bedlam around here," Father Kelly affirms. "Orthodoxy," he maintained, "is very vital. We still must teach the children prayers, the ten commandments, the doctrines and precepts of the Church."

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Sisters' Wages Are Shared



After many years of service, retired Sisters, such as this one in chapel, continue to pray for those shouldering the burdens of the day.

expenses, travel and recreation. The parish supplies the convent building, heat, light, water and usually the car and its maintenance.

The other half of this salary is put into the general "community fund". From this general fund, the entire support of the approximately 250 "non-salaried Sisters" of the congregation must come. Among these non-salaried Sisters are the retired and infirm, the young Sisters still being educated, and the Sisters in the general ad-

ministration of the congregation.

In addition, this general fund takes care of unusual medical, dental, educational, or other needs of any Sisters in the community.

There are approximately 200 other Sisters working in institutions owned or staffed by the Sisters of St. Joseph, e.g. Nazareth Academy, Nazareth College, St. Joseph's Hospital, St. Ann's home. These Sisters are wholly supported by the income of the institution — tuition, salary, etc. — and also contribute to the general fund.

The total contribution from these salaries — both parish and institutional — made up only 62% of the revenue needed for the 800 Sisters of the congregation in the year 1969-70. The balance each year must be made up from other sources, mostly donations, bequests, and the like, which are very uncertain.

Each Sister in a parish convent last year, therefore, was living on approximately \$75 per month. How do they manage? In several ways — communal living where seven people living together is more economical than those seven living separately; the generosity of the pastors, parishioners and friends who often help with extra donations, food showers, and so forth; and the additional fundraising projects sponsored by the congregation — festivals, concerts, summer programs.

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