

ELMIRA / NEWS

Area

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Father Joseph F. D'Aurizio celebrates Mass in the Interfaith Chapel at St. Joseph's Hospital for the Ladies of Charity.

Elmira Ladies of Charity Strengthen Their Program

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira—The membership of Chemung County chapter of the Ladies of Charity will increase to more than 150 women on June 9 when at least 20 new members will be affiliated with the organization.

The increase in membership is partially credited to the reorganization of the Ladies of Charity program.

Father Joseph F. D'Aurizio, moderator of the organization explained the revised structure of the Ladies of Charity saying, "Two years ago a recommendation was made to revise the old structure of the Ladies of Charity and to make its work more in the line of service to the people.

"With the change came new programs, such as a newly created Older Citizen Center, a Thrift Shop and an ecology project," the priest said.

In speaking of the new Older Citizen Center Father D'Aurizio said, "We don't want just a recreational center, we want to provide both an informational and a counseling center for our older citizens."

The priest, who is also the executive director of the Catholic Family Service in Elmira, pointed out that the center is open to all senior citizens, without regard for race, creed or religion.

Father D'Aurizio said the Ladies of Charity have two main roles in their work. "First the ladies are volunteers, with some performing the mechanical functions of the organizations, such as, working in the Thrift Shop, or cleaning up the Older Citizen Center.

"Next we have the ladies who work on a one-to-one basis with

those in need, whether they be youngsters or older persons.

"The other role the Ladies of Charity perform is providing financial help for both the organization and the people it serves," Father D'Aurizio explained.

Mrs. Willis Larrabee, president of the local Ladies of Charity, further explained the new role the organization has taken on.

"Years ago the Ladies of Charity was a prestige organization now it is an organization which in addition to having the members pay dues also asks those involved to become active in one or several of our projects."

Mrs. Larrabee pointed out that any woman who feels she can be active in the Ladies of Charity's new endeavors should "look into our program. She is more than welcome to learn just what we do, how we do it, and why we perform the programs we are involved in."

The affiliation of the new members will take place at St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads. A banquet at the Flaming Pit Restaurant in Horseheads will follow the affiliation Mass.

The Older Citizen Center is located in St. Patrick's Church annex, just off College Ave. in Elmira, while the Thrift Shop is located at 352 S. Main St. in Elmira.

The other major program the organization is involved in is ecology. "We collect glass bottles to bring to the Thatcher Glass Mfg. Co. in Elmira. The money we get for the bottles goes to help the needy and the poor."

The group also has another

interesting project which has not received much attention by local individuals. Every week members of the Ladies of Charity visit the older patients at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Mrs. Larrabee might have best summed up the work of the organization when she said, "When we visit the senior citizens at St. Joseph's it makes us feel good knowing we tried to make one person's day a little brighter."

It looks like the Ladies of Charity from Chemung County are trying to make quite a few people happier by the programs they are carrying on.

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St. Margaret Mary To Hold Picnic

Apalachin — The second annual parish picnic sponsored by St. Margaret Mary Church here will be held June 20 at the church grounds. Each family planning to attend the picnic is asked to bring a covered dish.

Chicken and refreshments will be provided by the church. Games, door prizes and a raffle will be held during the picnic.

Admission to the picnic is one dollar for adults and 75 cents for children.

N. Dame Teachers Honored by Dinner

Elmira — Teachers at Notre Dame High School here were recently honored for their work in the field of education at the First Annual Board of Governors-Faculty Dinner held at the high school.

Those receiving awards for continued service to Notre Dame students were: Sister Jane Frances, Sister Mary Joachim, Sister Mary Carmella, Sister Mary Jeanne, Sister Mary Anne and Mrs. Sarah Fisher.

The six women have been with the Catholic high school since 1955, when the school first opened its doors.

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