

Retired as a Teacher, Sister Works at Hospital

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "My role as case-worker in the Social Service Department here at Mercy Hospital is but another way to continue my commitment to giving self to God and others," reflects Sister Francis deSales, retired teacher, as she looks back over her past year's experience at Mercy Hospital.

A nun for 48 years, Sister Francis de Sales of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, taught in the elementary school system in the Rochester Diocese for 46 years. The past 12 years were at St. Mary's school in Auburn.

Retiring from teaching, she finds her new undertaking not only fulfilling but says it reflects a growing attitude that those in religious communities can redirect their experiences, training, and commitment after retiring from one field of work.

As sister-caseworker, she assists the hospital in providing spiritual care in a comprehensive or total patient care program which includes a patient's physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

By performing routine procedures, Sister enables the director of social services to pursue more intensive casework. She greets all admissions and through day-to-day contact with patients fulfills the crucial role of casefinding.

Sister serves patients and families as needed, either offering direct service or by referring them to other community agencies. She assists the chaplain in carrying out his duties, makes referrals to clergymen of the patient's choice, and performs services contributing to the comfort and well being of the patient.

Sister feels her presence as a nun symbolizes the thoughtfulness and spiritual consideration of Christ and in itself may be reassuring to patients. She furthers the spiritual tone in the lives of the patients which may become even more important as Mercy Hospital expands its program to include chronic care and rehabilitation programs.



—Photo by Andy Tarby

Sister Francis de Sales checks out the day's schedule with the director of the Social Service Department at Mercy Hospital, Mrs. Pauline Riemer.

To know Sister Francis de Sales is to appreciate what her presence brings to patients.

Describing her work, she comments, "People ask me what I do. The description is a clinical one, but not the work I do. The answer is as varied as the people whom I serve. The simplest, but best reply is that I try to respond to the needs of the sick and suffering. Because I am a nun, I bring an added dimension to the lives of patients."

It is unusual for the sister of one congregation to be employed by another community. Sister Francis de Sales, a St. Joseph Sister, made arrangements with Sister Joan Alice, administrator of Mercy Hospital, Order of St. Francis, to take on this work.

Reared in Elmira, Sister has come to view Auburn as her home and resides at St. Mary's Convent on Clark Street. Sister Francis de Sales has a brother, Edward L. Murphy, living in Elmira Heights and another

brother, Father Donald J. Murphy, pastor of St. Pius the Tenth Church in Rochester.

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AUBURN / NEWS

Area

Mary Ann Ginnerty 215-222-1111

Sister Catherine Leaves St. Mary's

Waterloo — Sister Catherine Judge, SSJ., eighth grade teacher and principal at St. Mary's School for the past three years, soon will take up a new assignment as principal at St. Stephens Elementary School in Geneva.

Sister Mary Cumbo will ar-

rive Aug. 30, to assume the principalship at St. Mary's.

Sister Catherine will be remembered for the spirit of co-operation and sharing of ideas which she fostered. She also leaves a new library room, the school's first, which will be put into use this fall.

Auburn Area Notes

Auburn — The inter-parish bazaar will be held August 28-29 at Grant Avenue Plaza. The bazaar is a cooperative effort

by Auburn area parishes to fund the central Christian Formation Center and Library whose offices are at St. Aloysius Church.

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