

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



Q. According to the number of accidents and deaths among innocent children it seems the "Guardian Angel" theory was "all wet." And why do Catholic parents assume their deceased children are automatically "saints" in heaven?

A. If you believe that the fact of having a guardian angel was some kind of guarantee that children would not suffer accident or death, your belief indeed was all wet. The Guardian Angel "theory" is based primarily on a passage from Matthew: "See that you never despise any of these little ones, for I tell you that their angels in heaven are continually in the presence of my Father in heaven." (18: 10). But this passage merely shows the care and solicitude of the Father especially for the weak and the little ones which ought to be an example for us. We should have great care for the little ones.

Besides, angel means messenger — we believe that God is in constant contact with every human being. The nature of that contact is mysterious but one thing we do know: God is not ordinarily going to change the course of human events either directly or through an angel. If one of us drives too fast down a residential street and kills a little child, God is not going to intervene. We should have been that child's "guardian angel."

Catholics assume that their deceased children are automatically "saints" in heaven because in Baptism those children become children of the Father in heaven and if they die they must be taken to the Father's home. They have had no chance to repudiate or reject their divine Sonship so in a very real sense, "they've got it made."

CICP Survey Nearing End

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The Office of Human Development is racing time to complete the Church's first survey of the inner city in time for 1973 diocesan budget planning.

The survey of 11 parishes is being done for the Council of Inner City Parishes (CICP) at the suggestion of the Office of Human Development (OHD).

Sister Grace Miller, RSM, who is directing it explained that it is the beginning of planning in inner city church work. Its purpose is to find who lives in the parishes so program and ministry can be revised to serve the present situation best.

"It is to help CICP to answer Bishop Hogan's challenge made last spring," explained Sister Grace while sitting in her chart-cluttered office at the OHD center on West Main Street.

'Operation Smile' At St. Michael's

Operation Smile is a new project at St. Michael's School. With the help of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, St. Michael's sister parish in the Northwest Region of the diocese, the school has obtained used toys, clothing, shoes, and small household objects.

These may be purchased at an "opportunity shop" every Thursday morning from 9 to 11 at St. Michael's for a minimal fee. The money raised will benefit the school.

Persons wishing to contribute goods to Operation Smile may contact Sister John Bosco, the principal, at 546-6100.

CDA Testimonial

Lima — Court FitzSimons, Catholic Daughters of America, recently gave a dinner for two members who have achieved high office in the CDA.

Guests of honor were Mrs. Monica Rapp, district deputy for the diocese, and Mrs. Rebecca Hanrahan, vice president of the Area Past Grand Regents Chapter. Also at the head table was the new chaplain, Father James Doyle, pastor of St. Rose of Lima.

"The bishop challenged them to reconsider their mission to the poor," she recounted, which may mean looking for alternatives to Catholic schools. "We felt there are different areas of concern besides education," the representative of OHD and CICP said. "This is just a method to help parishes re-establish priorities."

The four-pronged survey being conducted with the help of volunteers, 1970 U.S. census data, and Monroe County planners' demolition plans and projections will seek information on:

- Existing parish resources — liturgy, religious education, finance programs and societies to find if they are meeting current needs. The source for this data is parish priests, three lay representatives and one nun.

- The age group concentration within parish boundaries is being compiled using 1970 census data as the information source.

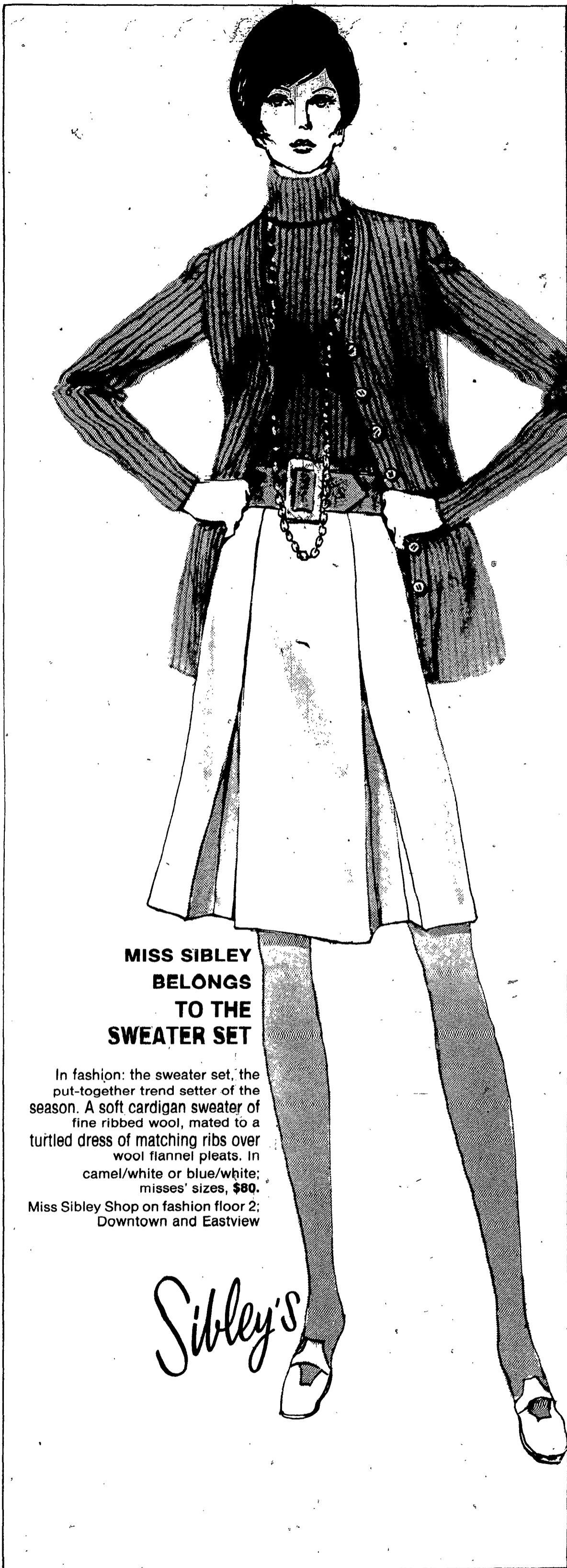
- The whereabouts of parish decision makers. With the help of Monroe County data processing a study is being made of the most active lay people who contribute most to each parish.

- Areas of real need are being delineated, using such factors as housing density and vacancy, socioeconomic and family stability. Census data also is the source of this information.

Sister Grace has had the full-time help of Sister Annette Truby SSJ, staff member of OHD and Spanish Apostolate and Sister Judy McKay, SSJ, also OHD staff, and is trying to recruit others to volunteer one night a week to beat the Dec. 22 deadline. So far, only one out of the 11 parishes has been completely surveyed.

The non-professional surveyors of OHD have the help of the recently formed Inner City Planning Board made up of professional researchers and planners.

The parishes being surveyed are St. Michael's, St. Bridget's, Mount Carmel, Holy Redeemer, St. Francis Xavier, Immaculate Conception, St. Lucy's, St. Patrick's, St. Peter and Paul's, and two national churches, St. Teresa's and St. George's.



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