Meg Gibbons, left, head nurse at Genesee Hospital, gives Sister Mary Celine planation of how to read X-rays during her visit to the hospital's intensive care Mrs. Ginny Mackey, fourth from right in bottom photo, takes Sister Mary an and her group to court as they cross Civic Center plaza on the way to a y court session to listen to arraignments. The court visit was followed by a trip to the Monroe County Jail later that day.



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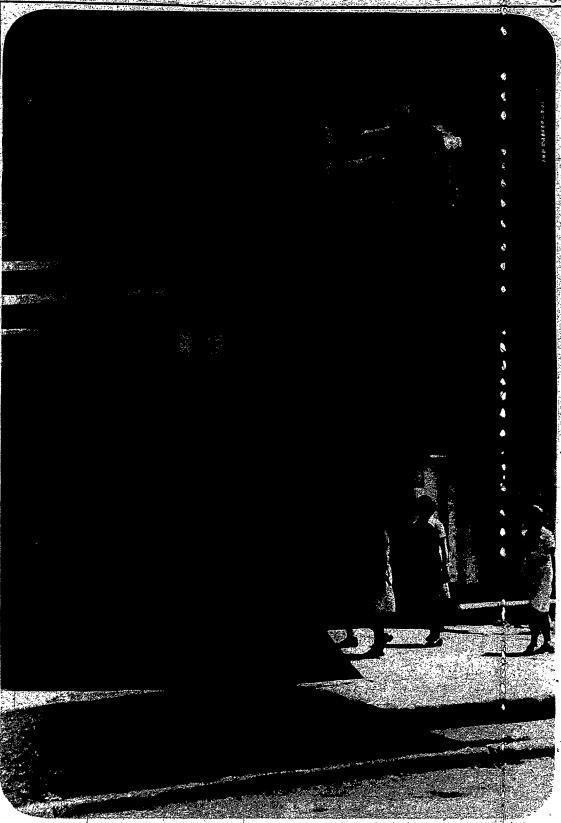
and ideals, grate their ience in 39 Nuns in the parishes spent several hot afternoons "hoofing it" to get an overall impression of their environment. They were cautioned to take only a "watchful stance" and not to enter the field with previous expectations.

"This is the blindness of visonary dreams; we look for people who fit our dream. If they don't, we usually ignore them," maintained Father Charles Mulligan, head of the Office of Human Development. Father Mulligan taught the opening session on the theology of the living church.

Some sisters experienced a rude awakening. "the biggest impact was gotten by the sisters who visited the women's jail as part of the ministry of criminal justice. It almost clobbered them; it's an experience they won't forget," Sister Michael commented.

One assignment for nuns specializing in





Part of each group's experience was getting acquainted with the physical environment. As part of the rural life ministry section, Sisters Kathleen Flaherty, Marcia Kusse, Mary Ann Brunett and Agnes Theresa Georger walk down the main street of Clyde in rural Wayne County.

the rural ministry was to become acquainted with the people in the neighborhood. They interviewed a head of a small business, a neighborhood agency, a politician and minister and anyone else they chose. Surfacing were concerns that the Church make more contributions to better transportation and medical care.

These casual interviews enabled the sisters to "meet the people on a leisurely basis," said Sister Agnes Theresa George, part of the rural ministry in Clyde. The sisters were also able to ask more questions because they didn't live in the area and the respondents had the security of anonymity.

Sister Mary Ann Brunett described the institute as "a different approach to a new situation." One of its major assets, she believes, is that "it had a sociological bent rather than being totally theological."

What they discovered during the Institute varied. It was a depressing business section of a rural town with empty shell store fronts and bored teenagers on the street corners. It was a difficult personal reaction to a confrontation with death since many sisters find themselves far removed from the hospital ministry. But it was also a time of personal growth and a deeper appreciation of the Church.



Both instruction and field experience played a role in the training done at the institute. Left, sisters taking work in the criminal justice ministry enter the front gate of Attica Correctional Facility; below, pupils listen attentively to a lecture in a classroom at St. Bernard's Seminary.