

A Nun Finds Her Role

"The Church's view has become more ecumenical, including the attitude that we should find our own niche where we can serve best. That's really all I've done," says Sister Rose Ellen about her job as social director at a private care facility for the elderly and handicapped.

Her method of finding her own niche, however, might be called a little unusual for a nun. It certainly was direct. She answered a help-wanted advertisement.

Vincent DiStefano, administrator of The Mariner House, recalls the first interview.

"She was perfect for the job, but I wasn't too sure about hiring a nun. Once I was sure she had the approval of her order, though, she had the job," he says.

Sister Rose Ellen had been considering a "career-shift" for some time. When she heard about the opening for a social director, she consulted with the mother house of the Sisters of St. Joseph before applying.

"Actually the job is an extension of my role as a Sister. Although the Sisters of Saint Joseph is more recognized in the United States as a teaching order, it originally was established in France for the purpose of visiting the ill and the elderly to offer them help and solace," Sister Rose Ellen explains.

She sees her new career from three angles:

* Her salary goes directly to the mother house, helping to support the order's infirmary for elderly sisters.

* She assists the residents of the Mariner House through counseling and by guiding them in opportunities to remain active.

* She finds her job personally rewarding and within her primary role as a nun.

Her first career was in teaching. For several years Sister Rose Ellen was chairman of the social studies department at Nazareth Academy on Lake Avenue in Rochester.

Although she gives major credit to her students, she was instrumental in establishing a course in Asian-African studies at Nazareth.

"Some of the students suggested the idea and then convinced me that I should be the one to start the course," she says.

Her research to create the course curriculum led her to some unexpected world-traveling. She was among 19 persons in the state selected to participate in an overseas tour-seminar program. She toured India and several other Southeast Asian countries in 1964 as part of the seminar program conducted by Syracuse University in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State and the State Department of Education.

Sister Rose Ellen says she began to have a sharper understanding of the needs of the elderly and handicapped persons several years ago. She had relinquished some of her administrative duties at Nazareth and found she had more time to visit people.

At the Mariner House, she saw an opportunity to be with people who were not invalids but retired persons and some handicapped individuals who wanted to find



Sister displays a delicate touch as she adds the orange juice to a bowl of punch for a party among the residents.



Sister helps residents find answers to a wide variety of individual and personal problems, an aspect of her work that she finds to be the most important and rewarding.

new outlets for their spare time and seemed to require some guidance.

As social director her daily responsibilities cover a wide range, including arranging group shopping trips or picnics, supervising arts and crafts activities, or planning parties.

An important part of the day, and the part that she enjoys more, she says, is visiting residents and talking with them.

"I'm an organizer at heart," she adds. Much of her time is devoted to initiating activity programs that are then taken over by other staff members or by the residents.

Sister Rose Ellen admits she did not embark on her new career without some hesitation. She had one real concern.

"I'm really very conservative," she says. "I didn't want to give up my nun's habit. I was prepared to wear business suits, but I was glad that it wasn't necessary."

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The Democratic Code of Ethics for this campaign in Irondequoit stated that we, the Democratic Candidates, would adhere to the Town Ordinance and not visually pollute our town with political signs regardless of the fact that Schmidt, Lobene and others of the opposition chose to resort to this illegal act.

We further pledged that we would make public all of our property and business interests in the Town of Irondequoit. Furthermore, we state here any interests we have in any company or corporation doing business in any way with the Town of Irondequoit.

DON DEMING
Supervisor



Property Owned: 287 Walzford Road. Mortgage held by: Community Savings Bank. Business interests held in Irondequoit or doing business with the Town of Irondequoit: None.

Donald A. Deming

ANTHONY J. COSTELLO
Councilman



Property Owned: 236 Hoffman Road. Mortgage held by: Marine Midland Bank. Business interests held in Irondequoit or doing business with the Town of Irondequoit: None.

Anthony J. Costello

DAVE GAYLORD
Council Candidate



Property Owned: 184 Hanover Road. Mortgage held by: First Federal Savings and Loan Assn. Business interests held in Irondequoit or doing business with the Town of Irondequoit: None.

David F. Gaylord

MIKE TADDONIO
Town Justice Candidate



Property Owned: 201 Edgebrook Lane. Mortgage held by: Monroe County Savings Bank. Business interests held in Irondequoit or doing business with the Town of Irondequoit: None.

Michael F. Taddonio