Nun Finds Her Role

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 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

* 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

Her first career was in feaching. 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.

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

Her research to create the course curriculum led her to unexpected worldtraveling. She was among 19 persons in the state selected to participate in an overseas tourseminar 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 peoble.

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.

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.

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

"I'm an organizer at heart," she

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."

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.

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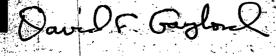
We further pledged that we would make public all of our property and business interests in the Town of Irondequoit. Furthermore, we state here any interests we have in any company or corporation doing business in any way with the Town of Irondequoit.

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