

Older Americans In Action

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The month of May. Among other things it's known for Mother's Day, for the flowers that follow April showers, as the month of the Blessed Virgin Mary and, since 1963, as Senior Citizens Month.

That's right. Those folks who struggled with the country through some of its most difficult times have a month all their own. And that's just as it should be.

In proclaiming May, 1974 Senior Citizens Month again, President Richard M. Nixon asked Americans during this time to "renew the recognition, the respect and the active concern which properly belong to older Americans."

He also added that "... most older people are not mere onlookers in our society... they remain vital, versatile..." And with this in mind he designated this month's theme as "Older Americans in Action."

For anyone over 65 today's world is often one of bewildering contrasts and bitter ironies. In a youth oriented society such as ours, those under 65 often forget that the elderly are what made their lives, and their way of life, possible.

And the luster of the twilight years, often portrayed as golden, is dulled as they try to exist on the barest necessities and ask themselves why, with many good years left, they're often unable to use them to the fullest extent.

According to the 1970 United States Census figures, there are 20,156,000 people over 65 in the U.S. This is projected to 23,703,000 by 1980 and 27,509,000 by 1990.

The census figures for that same year show 1,960,752 people over 65 in New York State with 68,887 residing in Monroe County.

President Nixon reminds us in his proclamation of the debt we owe them and notes that "our older citizens have given their best to America. Now they deserve the best from America."

But don't let it stop at May 31. Continue to give the best to senior citizens all year 'round. We need them.

The pictures on this page were taken at St. Ann's Home and the Heritage. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan recently visited with many senior citizens there, got to know them better and reminded them that they're special in the eyes of God, the Church and society.



Practicing on the putting green with the bishop are [left to right] Paolini Sante, Daniel McNally and William Daneher.



During a lull in conversation, the bishop and friends paused to pose for the camera. From left to right are Frank Sexton, Charles Welch, the bishop, Charles Wegman and John Christman.



Enjoying a friendly hand of cards with the bishop are [left to right] Mrs. Helen Skanron, Mrs. Lucy Schlitzer, Mrs. Marie Hulbert and Mrs. Bertha Curtis.



Bishop greets Mrs. Mary E. Hogan.



Mrs. Elizabeth Ensworth beams for the camera as the bishop says something to make her smile.