



Sister Barbara shares a chuckle with block leader Rita Pugliese in photo at left. Later in the day, she and Sister Carol Datz, SSND, also a pastoral assistant exchanged concerns. Sister Carol works at Ss. Peter and Paul.

Pastoral Assistant

# New Apostolate For Women

Recently the role of pastoral assistant has opened up new avenues of apostolate for religious women. Well over 20 sisters will be in that work by September in the Rochester diocese.

Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, is a pastoral assistant at St. Monica's Parish, Rochester, and ministers primarily to the needs of the elderly, ill, and house-bound in the parish. In August she will have completed her second year there.

"My hope is that the parish will really represent to the sick and elderly, the healing concern of Jesus — in other words, be the visible representation of Jesus," Sister Barbara reflected.

She continued, "Every person should feel he has a real stake in the parish. When persons have given so much to the Church through a lifetime, the Church has the obligation to go out to them when they can no longer be so active."

Recently the parish celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Over 350 elderly and sick persons gathered in St. Monica's Church for the liturgy of life, strength, hope, courage, and healing.

Keeping in touch with parishioners through home or hospital visits is tops on Sister Barbara's priority list. She has visited each of the 240 apart-

ments at Plymouth Gardens, a high rise for the elderly, 1400 Plymouth Avenue, South, and makes Communion calls there every second Friday of the month.

Friday afternoons find her stopping in at the parish center for the weekly gathering of senior citizens, inaugurated by the pastor, Father Edward Zimmer. A craft class, started by the parish's Human Development Committee, meets regularly at this time.

Saturday evening and Sunday morning she is present for the Eucharistic liturgies and preaches every fourth week.

St. Monica's block leader system, which she initiated, is now operating under the parish's Human Development Committee, headed by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Farrell. There are 70 block leaders, whose awareness and concern keep the parish posted on the needs of those in their block.

Sister Barbara meets weekly with the Parish Staff which includes Father Zimmer, Father Ronald Stacey, assistant pastor; Sister Anne Marie Fehrenbach, principal; Sister Sheila Walsh, religious education coordinator; Sister Agnes Clare, who makes Communion calls and visits the sick and elderly; and Rick Ensmann, parish bookkeeper.

She is the staff's liaison with the Human Development Committee, whose top priority, besides neighborhood unity, is the elderly.

She also is a member of the Parish Council and liturgy committee and keeps in touch with the 19th Ward Community Association. She's very pleased that their newspaper, Update, is starting a column on the senior citizen of the month.

Underlying all parish ministry is the goal to nourish a Christian faith community. A pastoral assistant who works with the sick and elderly can make a very definite response to this goal.

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