



Savation Army Captain Eunice Kull.



Wilfredo Martinez and Mrs. Jenny Mancuso pose with Sister Carol Fox. Teens help elderly neighbors through Mount Carmel youth program.



St. John the Evangelist pastoral assistant, Sister Marlene Vigna, visits Cedarwood Towers residents Evelyn Miller, Lillian Hogan, and Alvena Pritchard.

he Move

oy, organized a parish effort that culminated in a nointing service at St. Ann's Church. P.A.'s also onverts, serve on committees, teach Bible classes, e home visits and communion calls, functioning an entire church staff. "We work with them, not y," Sister Carol Datz described the pastoral working relationship with priests.

r Elizabeth Mulcahy, pastoral assistant at St. Xavier Church, remarked that the role of the assistant is evolving according to need. Sister thus spends much of her time dealing with needs in her neighborhood. Sister Julia Norton th the Spanish speaking in St. Patrick's area. Mt. Sister Carol Fox ministers to youth and helps n jail. Sister Helen Goschke concentrates much on ucation. Sister Marlene Vigna, of St. John the st, Humboldt Street, ministers to the elderly in s, while Sister Angela seeks them out in their Mt. Morris and Sister Marie Albert finds them in homes near Canadaigua.

sisters are ready to work ecumenically. Sister's high rise ministry is an ecumenical effort. Sister orks with the Savation Army and conducts in-inational prayer groups. In Henrietta, Sister Judy serves on the Council of Churches. The list goes

oral assistants are like priests, then. But they are sts. They are women. "There are so many things oman brings to the work," Sister Marlene said, ig the role of the pastoral assistant. Sister Helen explained that pastoral assistants are an in-

spiration to women in the parish to become more involved. The complementary ministries of both men and women was a strength Sister Barbara Moore appreciated.

Parishes with pastoral assistants have requested them, Sister Barbara explained.

In the future pastoral assistants expect to see their numbers grow. Presently they are seeking to define who and what they are and to establish training programs to equip themselves better for their new jobs. The majority of pastoral assistants formerly were teachers. Several sisters are taking courses at St. Bernard's Seminary, and Sister Marlene taught a seminar there on the role of women in the Church. Sister Carol Fox reported that St. Bernard's is offering pastoral assistants highly individualized graduate programs based on their backgrounds and job situations.

Is the pastoral assistant a step in the direction of the ordination of women? Answers among the pastoral assistants varied. Some said no. Others felt that with the shortage of priests there was no other way to go. Still others discussed call, saying that if a woman felt called to the priesthood it should be open to her.

Few claimed any great aspiration to the priesthood and many felt that the administrative demands placed on the priest would hinder the amount of direct ministry that they give to the people.

"I think that one of these days people will wake up and find women in these roles and decide it's not so bad after all," Sister Barbara Moore chuckled.



Ss. Peter and Paul staff, from left to right: Father Martin Gomes, Sister Carol Datz, Father Daniel McCarthy, and Sister Virginia McGlynn.



At left, parents Carol and Stephen Cardinal watch as godparents Thomas Cardinal and Beatrice Colby play with their baby girl. Sister Pat Norton at right makes home visits prior to baptism.



Workers at St. Francis Xavier Church. Left to right are the ill, Abner Ortiz, Elias Nieves, Sister Betty, Ken Hillman, Miller, Debbie Taylor, and Diane Miller.



Daniel Ryan and Sister Angela Sutula reload van after delivering free Monk's Bread to the poor in Mt. Morris.