

Sisters Summer Ministries

By SISTER CHRISTINA WELCH

"My experiences have emphasized the importance of the person," said Sister Mary Maloy, SSI, a volunteer summer worker for two mornings each week at the Information Desk of the Social Services Bureau on Westfall Road. "I have seen the suffering of persons who feel no one cares about them."

It is this focus on the person that has mainly motivated 300 Sisters of St. Joseph in their summer ministries.

Sister teachers this summer have reached out to more new types of ministry, as well as searched out new resources to apply to their September-June commitments. The program was under the direction of Sister Loretta Poole and Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley of the Central Team, the administrative group of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"If you had been my math teacher, I wouldn't be here," said one of Sister Kathleen Clary's students at the Monroe County Jail. "You make it look so easy."

The need this summer was for volunteer tutors, as the director of volunteers at the Jail explained to Sister Patricia Frisk, coordinator for the seven sisters who tutored there. Many inmates are being prepared to take tests for the High School Equivalency diploma.

In Monroe County alone, we are told, 25,000 units of low and moderate income housing are needed now. Facts like this Sister

Anne Urquhart faced in substituting for the coordinator for the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation.

"Are Sisters doing this kind of thing?" someone asked Sister Anne, adding, "it's nice."

The outlines of Summer Opportunities sent to the Sisters themselves in May, soliciting volunteer action, urged consideration of, among other values: "The needs of society as we can identify them at this time." Sister Anne says she will take back to St. Agnes High School a keener awareness of one Gospel message: "Shelter the homeless."

Language teachers converted their skills to a new clientele use. Sister Marjorie Maybee's Spanish helped in Brockport in such practical ways as aiding the needy procure clothing and transportation, but she said the other sisters on the program and she were especially gratified to notice an increase in parish involvement and a deepening interest on the part of the Human Development Committee in the migrants. The sisters helped with the bilingual Mass.

In a camp connected with the Rushville Clinic, Sister Magdalena Kellner said she used her Spanish to explain health problems and the right way to administer prescribed medications. She said she has been asked in addition to help procure Social Security numbers, food stamps, legal papers, and in one case, we are arranging for an infant baptism. She said things would have been very difficult without the

services of a liaison person who could speak Spanish.

Home visitation this summer also took on new aspects. As Sister Virginia Steinwachs, directing home visitation at Holy Rosary parish, says, "Our school goal for '76-'77 is more communication with our parents, more of positive sharing rather than crisis confrontation."

In St. Augustine's parish, the sisters undertook visiting "the elderly, the sick and other housebound people."

Continued Next Week

Swine Flu Vaccine to Be Available

The swine flu vaccine program will be resumed Sept. 27 in Monroe County, according to Joseph DeSantis, health resources coordinator for the county Department of Health.

The original extensive outreach-type clinics will have to be scrubbed now, according to DeSantis, because time is more of a factor. Hopefully as many people will be served but at fewer locations.

The new program will be announced in detail soon, according to DeSantis. Last week congress passed legislation appropriating \$135 million for the nationwide program. It had been stalled because insurance companies refused to insure such a large program against possible suits.

House Bars U.S. Funds For Abortions

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The U.S. House of Representatives, in approving a \$56.5 million appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare, again barred the use of federal funds for abortions.

In refusing to modify an anti-abortion amendment to the bill that Senate conferees would not accept, the House sent the measure back to the Senate for further deliberations and action.

The controversial amendment sponsored by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Ill.) and supported by House leadership, prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortions by women on welfare. The House voted 223 to 150 not to yield in its position on the abortion question. It was the third vote on the question in two months.

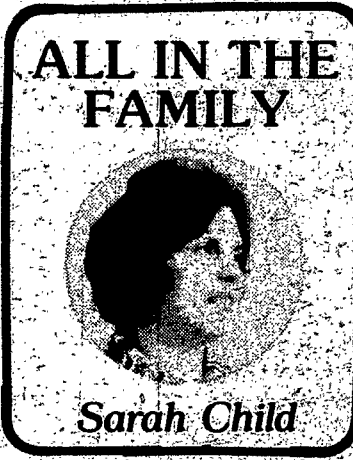
The Senate is not expected to act on the matter until after Aug. 23 when Congress returns from its recess for the Republican National Convention.

DEGREES GRANTED

Two Sisters of St. Joseph received Master of Arts in Religious Education degrees July 29 from Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Mich. Completing the program were Sister Deanne Gears of St. Monica's, Rochester, and Sister Brian Madigan of St. Michael's, Penn. Yan.

FOR THE JOBLESS

A ten-part video series to help people cope with unemployment will be presented at the Rochester Public Library, 115 South Ave., Aug. 16-27. One part will be shown twice each day, at 12:15 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the second floor lobby. The programs are 30 minutes long, and in color.



where she'd personally landed a 22-inch trout, to say nothing of several shrimpier specimens measuring only 14 to 18 inches.

My parents bought the land and when the deed, a poetic document which speaks of "the various meanderings" of the creek and a western boundary of "Maple hardwood" among other things, was made out it listed my parents' five children and their spouses as owners.

How does one say thank you for a priceless gift? For the wild beauty of yellow dog's tooth, violet and blackberry bush, for ancient spruce and lily pad, for rose breasted grosbeak and a forest of fern. For the delicious thrill of glimpsing moving underbrush as some unseen, untamed creature makes his way deeper into the safety of the wood, for the sight and sound of sun dappled water making its way over smooth, moss covered stones, for the grandeur of a mammoth fir towering over lichen and fungi, for a tiny gnarled apple tree with miniature but unblemished fruit, for fallen rotting logs signaling that the cycle is intact.

Each visit brings new discoveries, new delights. On a recent trip six of the nine grandchildren plunged clothes and all into the "crick" in a spontaneous orientation rite. A quiet walk on a long ago abandoned railroad bed near dusk was rewarded with the glimpse of a doe and her fawn. Orange paint brush and yellow mallow rose vie for attention and the woodland fragrance of fern is so heady on a rainy afternoon that one is tempted to stand quietly and take in clean, sweet draughts.

Perhaps the best expression of gratitude is to vow that it shall remain untouched for those yet to come.

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New Sisters of St. Joseph check the picture files depicting various works of their congregation. Sisters Janet Elizabeth Meeker, Nancy De Rycke, Anne Alderman, and Mary Louise Woznick.

Novices to Make Vows

Four young women will make their first commitment in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester on Saturday, Aug. 21, at a special ceremony in the Motherhouse Chapel, East Avenue, at 2 p.m.

They are: Sister Anne Alderman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alderman, St. Patrick's Parish, Mendon; Sister Nancy DeRyke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. De Ryke, St. Pius the Tenth Parish, Chili; Sister Janet Elizabeth Meeker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Meeker, St. Mary's Parish, Elmira; Sister Mary Louise Woznick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steven C. Woznick, Sr., St. Jerome's parish, East Rochester.

These Sisters have just completed their novitiate year, much of which was spent in an intercongregational program at the St. Joseph Motherhouse in Latham, New York.

During the coming year, they will be involved in various works of the Congregation. Sister Anne teaching at St. Ann's School in Rochester; Sister Mary Louise as Religious Education Coordinator at Holy Redeemer Parish, Rochester; Sister Janet Elizabeth studying at Elmira College; and Sister Nancy as Religious Education Coordinator at St. John's Parish, Rochester.

Kearney Teacher Takes Final Vows

Sister Joyce Wittman took her final vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame at the centennial celebration of her home parish, Holy Ghost Church, July 18.

She is co-chairman of the religion department at Bishop Kearney High School and moderator of the school's color guard. Sister Joyce was the first School Sister of Notre Dame to recite her final vows at Holy Ghost.

Sister Joyce attended Mercy High School here, the Mother House College in Wilton, Conn., and Seton Hall University, from which she was graduated in 1974.

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