



## When A Convent is Home



Gaye Moorhead has been a full-fledged Mercy Sister for less than three months, and already she's a "mother superior." That is, she's head of the house at Andrew Center and chief mother to its juvenile residents.

The center is a licensed foster care home on one floor of the former convent at St. Andrew's parish. From time to time it has taken in a total of 20 children, ranging in age from six months to 16 years. They are charges of the Monroe County Department of Social Services.

"I know the agency has been well satisfied with what we have been able to do," Sister Gaye said last week.

Currently, her family consists of five boys, aged four to 12 years. Three of them are blood brothers, up for adoption. They all went with her on a Christmas visit to the Moorheads in Livonia, Mich., six and a half hours away by train.

At the center, Sister Gaye has the company and assistance of six other sisters. Yet another half dozen, some of whom teach

in the parish school, live on an upper floor. Neither the adult nor juvenile group is static, but there's always a core of oldtimers to give the continuity the children need in making their adjustments and finding out the limits and freedoms of the place. A part-time "father figure" is Dan Quilty, parish youth worker, who devotes 16 hours a week to the children.

Sister Gaye's work has confirmed a suspicion that children "need firm as well as loving care. A routine that is firm but gentle really helps the child."



One of the center's talented artists looks over a picture of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan which he drew from a photograph in the Courier-Journal.