



Reading a magazine after lunch



Everyone lends a hand.

Photos by Susan McKinney

The operative philosophy, Deacon O'Shea says, is "To take personal responsibility for the poor." He notes that the house community serves the needs of the poor on a one-to-one basis and from that contact, finds itself in an advocacy role, "asking systemic questions."

Such a question would be "to ask government why it invests in war material when people are in need of bread."

The poor who visit the house, he said, receive help with the personal approach, "rather than be turned over to the impersonal bureaucracy of the state."

The house community includes five live-in members; between 25 and 30 faithful volunteers, and a larger base of Churches and people who are supportive of the house work, both Catholic and non-Catholic.



Extra food is given out to those who need it.



The chairs are stacked and the floors mopped after lunch.