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Sisters, Students Benefit from Program

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Trumansburg—Changing from teaching home economics in a high school with 2,200 girls to religion instruction of elementary school students in a program with 45 students might be an unsettling experience for some, but not for Sister Mary Clare, IHM.

Teaching in the St. James summer school, Sister Mary Clare said, is an enjoyable experience for herself and the two other sisters from Philadelphia who staff the program. "We're really enjoying the beautiful children," she said, adding that she wishes their stay was longer than two weeks.

St. James has had the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, a traditional order based near Philadelphia, conduct its

summer school for several years. Father Albert Ryan, pastor, explained that not long after joining St. James, he sought out the sisters to staff the school. Those coming usually work in inner city Philadelphia the rest of the year, he said.

"I really enjoy everything about Trumansburg," Sister Mary Clare said, "the children and the people have been so good to us."

The sisters pointed out that they enjoy the change of scenery they get in Trumansburg. Just having trees around made Sister Delores Therese happy, she noted, adding that it was a blessing "to be in God's beautiful country." This was her first year at St. James, she noted, and she is "happy to be here."

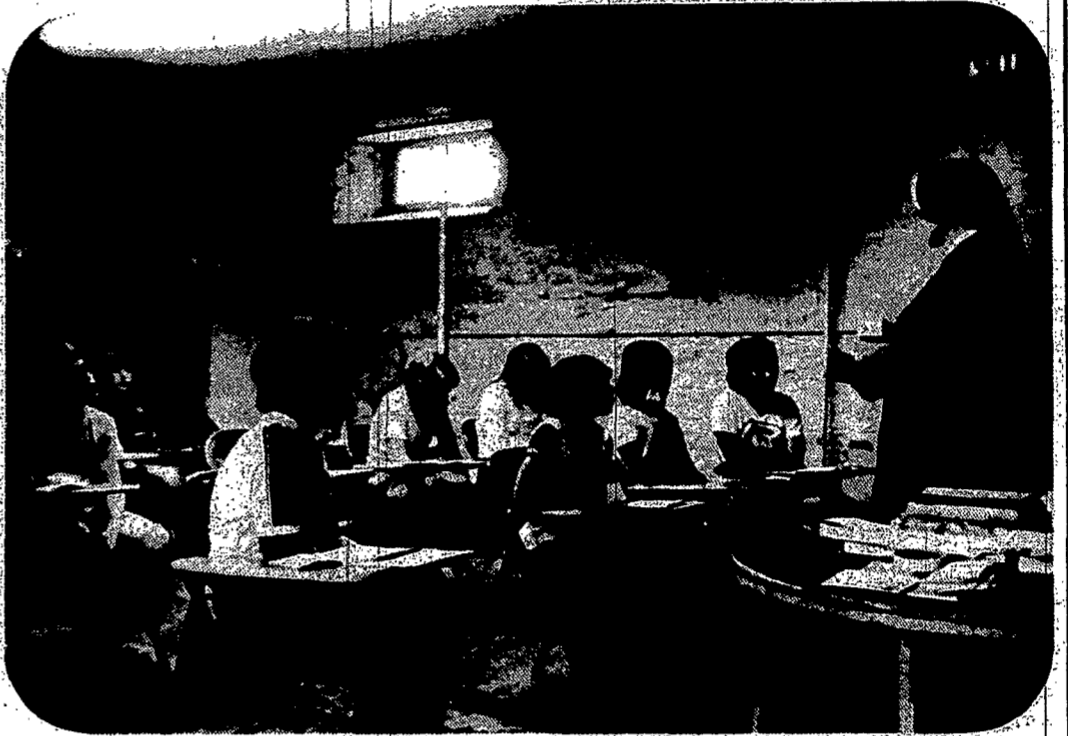
Sister Jamesita reported that the "children are lovely to

work with," and "I really enjoy it very much" working in the religion program.

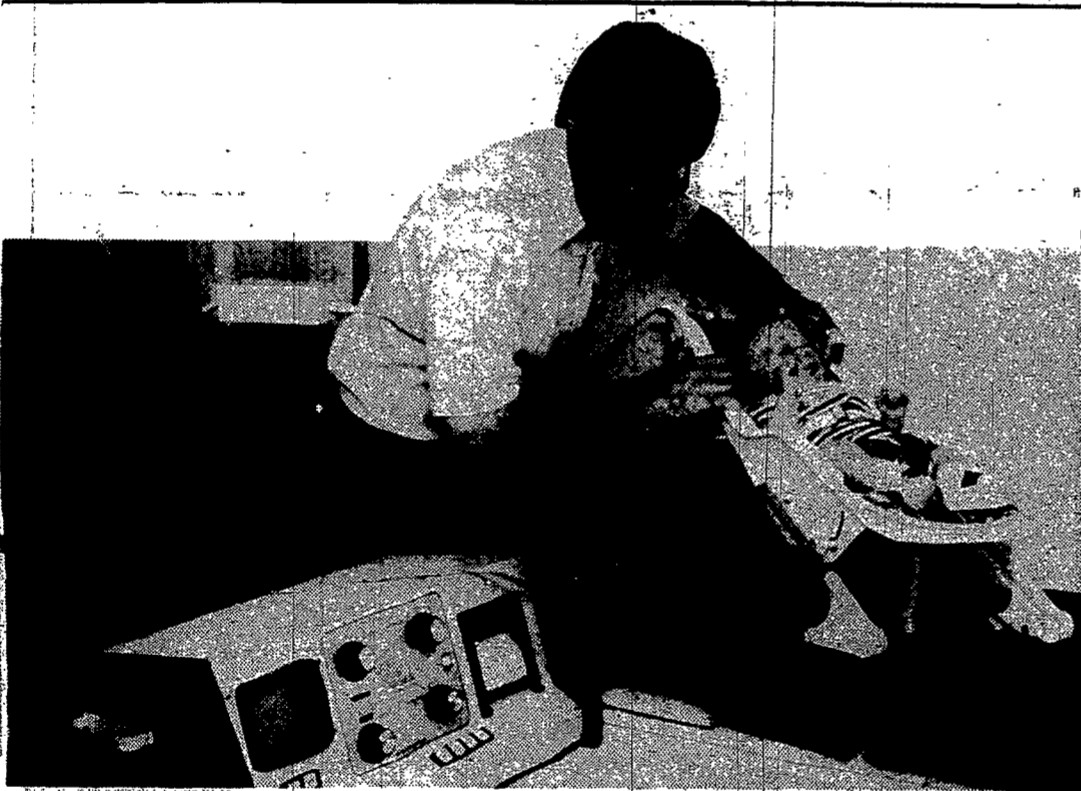
The sisters each teach two grade levels. Father Ryan noted that the 45 children participating is a good turnout for the parish of about 180 families. He also noted that the program has attracted a couple non-Catholic families, and one family from out of state who send their children to visit their grandmother in Trumansburg so they can attend the summer school.

Father Ryan also said that the sisters are effective teachers, explaining that often during the year when he is teaching a class, the students will point out items that the sisters taught them during the summer.

The sisters' involvement at St. James, Father Ryan noted, also has led to a local girl joining the order.



Sister Jamesita with fifth and sixth graders. Photo by Martin Toombs



Audiologist Jeffrey Katz using the Brainstem Evoked Response equipment recently obtained by St. Joseph's Hospital to test the hearing of two-and-a-half month old Brian Steadman of Tioga, Pa.

Hearing Tests on Infants Now Possible at St. Joseph's

Elmira—Until recently, diagnosis of hearing impairment in a young child might have been overlooked until age two or three. A new testing device now is available at St. Joseph's Hospital for detecting hearing loss in infants. The new service, Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry is being offered at the Speech and Hearing Clinic of the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center at St. Joseph's.

According to Jeffrey Katz, audiologist at the clinic, "the best administration requires no active participation on the patient's part, and is entirely painless. Three surface electrodes are attached to specific areas on the skull and connected to the BER machine. Basically, this enables auditory brain waves

to be recorded at the level of the brain where the centers for hearing are located."

He went on to say, "brain wave responses are analyzed by a computer system and electronically plotted on a graph. Hence, we can test a six-month old child, for instance, and obtain extremely accurate hearing thresholds."

Katz stressed the importance of detecting hearing loss at such an early age. "If the child is going to need a hearing aid, it should be provided as soon as possible after birth. Many developmental problems can result when a child is not exposed to sound stimulation in his environment."

In 1976, the Speech and Hearing Clinic discovered five

severely hearing impaired children between the ages of two and three. "Unfortunately, since those children were not exposed to sound stimulation in that first year or two when speech was emerging, they already displayed severe delays in speech and language development by the time they go to us," he stated. "With the BER available, we can now fit children with hearing aids and start a total communication program in therapy much earlier," he pointed out.

In addition to detecting hearing loss in the neo-natal population, Brainstem Evoked Response Audiometry is an excellent device for aiding in the diagnosis of acoustic tumors; and obtaining hearing levels in the mentally retarded and the emotionally disturbed.

Principal Feted

Ithaca—Immaculate Conception Parish bid farewell to Sister Raymond Mary Davis, SSJ, Sunday, June 25, at a special Mass.

Readings pertinent to sister's life and work were read, praise and gratitude for her seven years as principal of Immaculate Conception School were expressed in the homily, and a representative from each grade in the school presented the Offertory Gifts.

The Mass was followed by a reception, attended by parishioners, present students and from sister's previous term here as a teacher, townspeople, and friends. Sister Raymond Mary will be principal of Christ the King School, Rochester, next year.

Poster Winners Named

Dansville—Early preparations for St. Mary's Summer Festival Aug. 3 through 5, included a poster contest in St. Mary's School before the school year ended. Prizes were awarded in two age groups.

First place winners were Amanda Teachout and Karié Sylvester; second prize recipients were Tonya Harrington and Michael Brichs; third place awards went to Rose Mary Keating and Robin Snyder.

Healing

Aurora—Charismatics will gather for a celebrated Mass with healing service on Friday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. in St. Patrick's Church. Father John Hayes, host pastor will preside. The gathering is being sponsored by the New Life Prayer Community of Scipioville. Refreshments will follow the liturgy.

St. Mary's Graduates 21

Dansville—The presentation of awards highlighted eighth grade graduation at St. Mary's School Thursday, June 22.

Twenty-one graduates and their families attended a Mass at 7:30 p.m., celebrated by Father Richard O'Connell. During the ceremony Father O'Connell presented graduates with awards for excellence in specific subjects.

Desiree Jakubaszek received the religion award; Beth Hayes, also class treasurer, received the algebra award. Class vice president

Alcoholism Seminar July 20

Elmira—The topic for the July Alcoholism Seminar at St. Joseph's Hospital will be "Alcohol Turfdom." Leading the discussion will be Joseph Roche, formerly community coordinator of the Southern Tier Alcohol Rehabilitation Service, and formerly of the state Alcohol Division; he now is outreach worker for the Corning Council of Alcoholism. Also speaking will be J. Frank Stark, STARS Program Coordinator.

The seminar will be Thursday, July 20 at 12:15 p.m. in St. Joseph's Hospital's Doctors' Meeting Room. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Social Work STARS office at St. Joseph's, 733-6541.

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Martha Lemen received the science award. Francis Clark received the math award; class president Rosa K. was presented with the English award, class secretary Kellie Schirer received the award for social studies, and Nancy Rectenwald was given a merit award.

A reception for the graduates and their families followed the ceremonies.

Parish Council Elects

Corning—St. Patrick's Parish Council has elected officers for the coming year. Serving as chairperson will be William Edwards; Ken Masteller will be vice chairperson, Becky Bonomo, agenda chairperson and parliamentarian, Jo Seibel will be the recording secretary, and Madeline Spruck will serve as corresponding secretary.

Officers Elected

Horseheads—New officers for the St. Mary Our Mother Parish Council were elected recently. Serving in the coming year will be Mrs. Dona Cincebox, president; Louis Seecley, vice president, and Mrs. Mary Ferguson, secretary.

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