

# Auburn Maryknollers Home for Christmas

Auburn — Maryknoll Sister Agnes Donovan is making an end-of-term break from her teaching job in Guatemala, and Maryknoll Sister Esther Donovan also will be home for Christmas, according to word from the order's headquarters. Their relatives here are two brothers, Joseph and Harry, and a sister, Mrs. Ethel Cain.

At a Maryknoll secondary school in Guatemala City, Sister Agnes teaches child psychology and gives vocational guidance in a teacher training program.



Sister Agnes Donovan stops for a chat with some of her students.

Some of her students spend their summers teaching reading and writing and religion to Indians of the rural mountain areas. Graduates of the school are qualified as elementary school teachers, but some go into law, medicine, social work or secondary education.

The aim of the school, in Sister Agnes's words, is to "form truly Christian leaders whose lives are based on Gospel values, and who will use their education in the service of others, and in the defense of human rights and dignity."

# Christmas in Newark — Nobody Has to Dine Alone

Newark — Nobody in this area has to feel left out of Christmas. Everyone is invited to dinner, and for those who can't come, there is delivery service.

This is the fifth season for the community dinner initiated by Mrs. Regina Krolak. She expects about 100 people to assemble Christmas Day in the dining room of First United Methodist Church, South Main Street. They will be people of all ages and income levels, she predicts. Dinner will be served at 1 p.m.

can find one through the Newark Center for Service to the Handicapped, 331-8886; nursing homes, or the volunteer office at Newark Developmental Center. Anyone who needs transportation to the dinner may call Paul Murphy, 331-3255. Offers of food or of assistance in preparation and serving are being received by Helen Arend, 331-4698. Cash donations can be sent to Charles Stott at Columbia Bank.

Working with Mrs. Krolak are Jacqueline O'Brien, William Verbridge, Patricia Buckley, Mary Thompson, Helen Arend and Joanne Stevens.

Their publicity release says, "For married couples whose children have grown up and moved away, for newcomers who want to meet people, for widows and widowers, for single people, for people with no kitchen facilities, and for people who just want to share their Christmas with others, the message is: Don't spend your Christmas dinner alone."

Several churches, civic organizations and individuals are sponsoring the event. The committee suggests that families dining at home may participate by inviting some institutionalized or elderly person to join them, or by contributing food, money or other gifts. Sponsors also intend to deliver dinners to shut-ins, and ask that names be reported to Mrs. Kroll, 331-5933.

Anyone looking for a guest

from eight to 20.

"More people are hearing about it," one teacher said.

More students also may enroll from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, which is just across the street.

Most of the students live with families under the state-subsidized Home Care Program, administered locally by the Newark State Developmental Center.

It's an experimental program, but one whose future seems assured. "I have a good feeling about it," said Mrs. O'Brien.

The program follows what Mrs. O'Brien calls "a very relaxed curriculum." It consists of an evening of shared prayer, singing, and group projects. A text, entitled, "Journey with Jesus," is available for use.

The parish acknowledged prime mover behind the program is Regina Krolak, herself

the mother of eight children, one of them severely retarded.

For 15 years she helped teach in a religious education program for the retarded at the Developmental Center. Three years ago she began promoting the idea of a similar program for the parish community.

# It All Comes Down to Faith

Newark — The small group of students and their teachers joined hands in a rough circle and shared their prayers.

They prayed for Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, for their families, for "the victims of Jonestown," for the two men who were murdered in that city in California. And they prayed for "the men who caused those murders."

They prayed for friends. They prayed for snow.

The prayers were simple, child-like — and aware.

All the students were mentally retarded.

The occasion was the weekly class in religious education offered for the retarded at St. Michael's Parish here.

"I think it's just fantastic," is how one teacher assessed the program.

It's the first time in memory that a program of religious education for the mentally retarded has been offered in the parish.

It has the support and encouragement of the parish's education committee, a branch of the parish council, and of the parish's religious education coordinator, Sister Rita Kaufman.

Jackie O'Brien is

director of the weekly program and one of four teachers. The others are Regina Krolak, Kathy DeCann and Kathy Mascioli.

They get help from teenagers Karen Clark, Marcia Santelli, Peter DeCann and Tom O'Brien.

Seminarian Paul Hurley, who is doing field work in the parish, is a frequent visitor.

It's entirely a volunteer program.

Since the first class on Oct. 4, the number of those attending has increased

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