



SISTER FLAHIVE



SISTER KEHOE



SISTER KRESS



SISTER SMEAD

## Four SSJ Sisters Note 280 Years

Four Sisters of St. Joseph this year are celebrating a combined total of 280 years of service to the Church and God.

The four, Sisters Consilia Flahive, Florentia Smead, Frances Marie Kehoe and Clarissa Kress, are observing the 70th anniversary of their profession of vows.

Sister Flahive, a native of Penn. Yan, taught in the Rochester area at St. Anthony of Padua, Immaculate Conception, Holy Rosary, Corpus Christi, St. Monica's and St. Ambrose schools.

She spent 16 years in secondary education at Aquinas Institute and DeSales High School in Geneva. Sister Flahive took up residence at St. Joseph Convent and Infirmary in 1968.

Sister Smead, a Geneva native, served in Rochester at Immaculate Conception, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Apostles, Holy Rosary and Corpus Christi schools, and at St. Patrick's School in Seneca Falls.

She has been living at St. Joseph's Convent and Infirmary since 1974.



SISTER BENEDICT



SISTER KRENZER

## And Two Share 120 Years' Work

Sisters Clarita Benedict and Catherine Joseph Krenzer, both of the Sisters of St. Joseph, are celebrating their 60th anniversary of profession of vows.

Sister Benedict, a native of Crosswell, Mich., entered the congregation in 1919. She served at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral Convent, and for 43 years, at St. Monica's

Convent. She presently resides at St. Joseph's Convent and Infirmary.

Sister Krenzer, a Rochesterian, taught at St. Anthony of Padua, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Francis Xavier in Rochester, St. Aloysius in Auburn, and St. Stephen's in Geneva. She retired to St. Joseph's Convent and Infirmary in 1969.

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

## It's Time To 'Ask Him'

The general press covering the synod of bishops, seems to have missed an issue which could cause great trouble for the Catholic community in the United States. It involves the handling of annulment proceedings.

It was surprising — to me, at least — that this deeply-felt conflict has come so close to a climax.

At issue is a special set of practices, requested by the American bishops and granted for a time by Rome, allowing diocesan tribunals to handle marriage cases more expeditiously.

One particular change has been very significant. Under these norms, the official who is charged with "defending the bond" (very roughly, the role of the prosecuting attorney) is not obliged to appeal every case in which the local court decides in favor of an annulment.

In other words, if this official sees no reason to disagree with the decision, the judgment of the local court is final.

This practice is an exception to the requirements of the past; it is an exception to the general norms governing the church throughout the world.

And it is a practice which now has a good chance of being terminated.

Cardinal Felici, who is in charge of the effort to revise the code of canon law, indicated that the revision, as it now stands, requires the appeal, does away with the American practice. He also said that the Holy Father has already approved this section of the code, that there will be no further consultation. In blunt terms, he told the synod, "If you want to discuss it further, ask him (the Pope)."

The American bishops will want to discuss it further. We can be sure of that.

In general, our bishops are very deferential toward Vatican policies. On this matter, however, their convictions are deep, widespread and rooted in their pastoral consciences.

In 10 or 15 years of covering the meetings of the bishops, I know of no other matter on which there was such a strong, common stand in their dealings with Rome.

They are convinced that their courts — and the

## Pilgrimage

Mrs. Mary Kelly, local spokesperson for the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, last week announced the formation of a pilgrimage to Mexico, Jan. 22-29. She said that pilgrims will visit a number of sites of religious significance in Mexico, culminating with a stop at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Further information on the pilgrimage is available by calling Mrs. Kelly, 586-1664.

present draft stands, their loyalty and obedience will prevail.

But they know, as many of us do, that such a policy would do more to undermine the service of the marriage tribunals than anything in the current practice.

They know that there would be far more instances of confessors using the internal forum, admitting people to the sacraments even though their marriages have not been regularized in the church. There are many confessors who would see the interminable delays of the past as an unreasonable, unnecessary burden imposed

on people who are doing all they can to respond to God's call.

Our bishops are a large, conscientious, conservative group. If there is any instance in which their pastoral sensitivity to the reality of the local church should be respected, this is it.

If they have to follow Cardinal Felici's advice, let them do it. Let them "ask him" — forcefully and insistently, as a brother-bishop who should be able to understand their pastoral concern, who should be willing to respect their responsible participation in his own ministry of leadership.

tribunal officials — are acting responsibly, prudently and with pastoral sensitivity.

They know that a return to the former practice would result in the outrageous delays of the past, in legalistic logjams for which there are not enough trained personnel. They see no way they could handle these appeals for the increased number of marriage cases without causing deep and unnecessary hurt to many people who are already badly wounded.

And, if they are listening to some of the overworked priests who serve on the tribunals, they know that a number of them would resign in protest rather than participate in what they see as a sacrifice of pastoral concern for unnecessary legalistic procedure.

From their response in the past, I feel sure the American bishops will appeal this decision just as far as they can. If the

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