## COURIER-JOURNAL

Insights In Liturgy Wednesday, October 7, 1981

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that station welcome Th was already at that hour listening aut But I had n wanted to g 16 as the st **Bishop Clar** first program Subseque aware, bore me by frier that the ne do; change But well another sta hands, WC to transfer manager of planned to format, an until Augu I should February.



p.m., Satui Oct. 10-1 Auditoriun talks on fre aquarium general Mu FOR S "Glimpse: Rochester, p.m., M Wednesda Free with admission. FACULT' Bur music of ] Johnson a p.m., Fri Kilbourn l THEAT Repertory Utah-base troupe, 8 and Satu Nazareth Center. T students box office SUNDA' AT Ni "Sunshin of deaf : Sunday, auditor College A CHILDI - TIC/I "Fables" around 1 and 2 p 12, m Nazaret Center. calling b LECTU

By Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ

## The Disabled As Sign

"Among the symbols with which liturgy deals, none is more important than the issembly of believers." Environment and Art in Catholic Worship, Article 28) There are several ways that one might reflect on these words, for the words themselves are signs that point to deeper, more meaningful realities. Basic to an understanding of the statement is the recognition that all of us - different. individual and varied form together one Body with the Lord Jesus as Head.

As Paul reminds us: Now the Body is not one member, it is many." -11 Corinthians 12:14.) As together we sign the living body Body of Christ, so individually we sign to one another the weaknesses and strengths of that Body still in process of coming to completion.

As we who are whole physically sign to the other members varying aspects of the Body of Christ, so there are other members of the Body who cannot walk. symbolizing for us our own weakness to stand firmly in faith- and truth; there are those who cannot hear. reminding us that we do not always listen to the Word of God: there are those who cannot see, signing for us the blindness we bring on ourselves, when we ignore the light that is Christs

The assembly that gathers at liturgy symbolizes who we are and who we are becoming. To be complete the assembly must make room and physical ad justment to allow people who are disabled to join in the worship. As we reflect on the importance of the assembly, let us also reflect on the conditions in which the assembly finds itself on Sunday morning.

## COURIER-IOURNAI Focus on Disabled

Many churches have built ramps so that people in wheelchairs may enter the church building. Others have installed lifts so that stairs might not be a problem for those who find them a difficulty. It seems, however, that there has not been such a strong effort to make the disabled comfortable once they are in the building. Where are the wheelchairs placed in the church? Is participation in the communion easily accomplished? Are ministers of hospitality alerted to help when communion begins? Are they present to help with setting people into church and comfortably positioned as part of the assembly? Do they speak with the person in the wheelchair or with a walker and make them welcome?

The blind cannot see any part of the liturgical celebration nor can the deaf hear it. Are large print hymnals or other participation aids available for the visually impaired? Is signing or are hearing aids available for those who have difficulty hearing the celebration? And of even greater importance, are disabled people made to feel at home and welcomed in our assemblies, or are they simply with us, on the fringe, but not part of us or part of what we are about?

As the disabled are a sign to us that we, the Body of Christ, are still in need of growth and development, sowe must be a sign to them of the caring, all-embracing, healing Christ who reached out especially to those who were disabled. Disabled people are part of who we are and should be part of us as we gather to worship.



PRINTERS



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**TABLE TRENDS** 

Fifteen members of the Rochester Chapter of Telephone pioneers of America donated their time and materials on Saturday. Sept. 19. to build playground equipment for the children of St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 -Dewey Ave,

New Equipment

St. Joseph's Villa Gets

Using telephone poles and tires, the Pioneers constructed a tire climb, balance beams, and a catwalk, among other structures.

There is little similarity between the traditional equipment found on other playgrounds and these structures. The new apparatus is being used for games which help the children to develop trust. teamwork skills, and initiative in problem solving.

Students in the Villa's prevocational training program. will complete the project by constructing a 12 foot wall for'team climbing.

The construction of the playground is one of the many projects of the Telephone Pioneers. a national volunteer organization of telephone company employees. The group engages in many projects to assist the handicapped and non-profit agencies

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