

Sister Kathleen Natwin, DC

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect



### Involvement In Community Organizations

The opportunities for a Christian to participate in social justice issues are boundless in this age, an age which presents a spectrum of problems ranging from fixed incomes for the elderly to the moral problems evident in a country which, despite world hunger, allows fruit to rot each year (to keep prices consistent). Although we can do little to change these injustices, it is possible to effectively exercise the Lord's call to a ministry for social justice in our own back yard by participating in neighborhood/community organizations.

Unfortunately, I found out early in my life that living in a city, being a good citizen and voting regularly didn't necessarily help enough in my neighborhood when serious problems arose or when there was money available for projects. A political voice needs to be identified to "create the squeaky wheel" that speaks for the neighborhood. It is a fact of life.

While they are not official government bodies, neighborhood organizations strive to represent the unified voices of the citizen working as a group advocate.

And these community associations need help. As with any group that seeks to represent a constituency, there is a desperate need for volunteer time and leadership. In addition, as political leaders are always trying to get their constituency to understand the issues, so too are community organizations trying to reach their neighbors who sit back and watch neighborhood improvements occur but won't come out to a candidates night to understand the election issues better.

Without neighborhood organizations, government officials and planners have no way to hear the concerns of the average citizen. When there is strong citizen representation, there is also attentiveness by political entities. Conversely, where there is no organized voice speaking, there is little action.

Giving oneself to neighborhood organizations is not complicated and is an option for any interested citizen. Everyone has individual gifts and when these gifts are blended together, a varied and wonderful resource is created for the community's use. All our neighborhoods are thirsting for helpers who are willing to give of their knowledge, time and energy in helping to plan and implement activities essential to improving our communities for the great diversity of people they hold.

The variety of problems that neighborhoods are dealing with include housing rehabilitation, quality of education, commercial neighborhood business revitalization, human resource service planning, crime prevention, court watch, street reconstruction,

day care, public transportation, and more.

Our communities are crying for assistance and advocacy. Hard questions surround the survival of our neighborhoods. What can we do about the plight of the displaced poor and elderly as more middle and upper class families move back into the city? The need to recreate friendliness and neighborliness instead of fear? The continued integration of minorities? These questions will, among many others, need to be answered in the next decade.

They are not questions to be answered by individual voices speaking in isolation but by voices united in the difficult and weighty role of advocacy through community organizations.

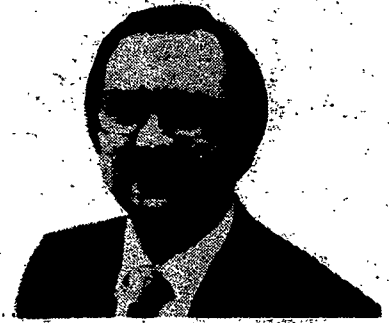
Sister Kathleen Natwin, DC, vice president of operations at St. Mary's Hospital, is a board member and officer in three southwest Rochester neighborhood organizations.



### High Spirits

Tricia Burroughs raises high the trophy won by Most Precious Blood School cheerleaders from the fifth and sixth grades at a CYO cheerleading competition recently at St. John Fisher College. The trophy signifies the Spirit Award, given for the first time this year for team "spirit, friendship, dedication, sharing and cooperation."

### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



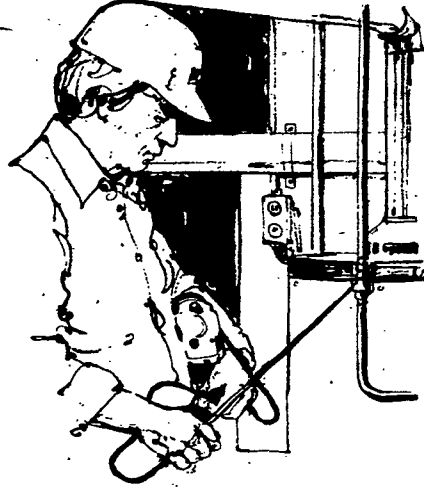
EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

#### When a child dies are there ways to help brothers and sisters?

Brothers and sisters of a child who has died may need special love and attention. While parents are grieving it should be remembered that children also feel sad and afraid. Special care should be given in explaining the circumstances of the death to the children. Often brothers and sisters are afraid that they or others in their family will also die. In addition children should be included in as much of the ceremonies as they wish. They may have special prayers, poems or songs that they wish to contribute. It is not uncommon for grieving parents to compare the behavior of surviving children to the deceased — this is not fair and should be avoided as it can lead to resentment on the part of the child. Sensitive listening, permitting of emotions and support will strengthen family ties during the crisis of bereavement.

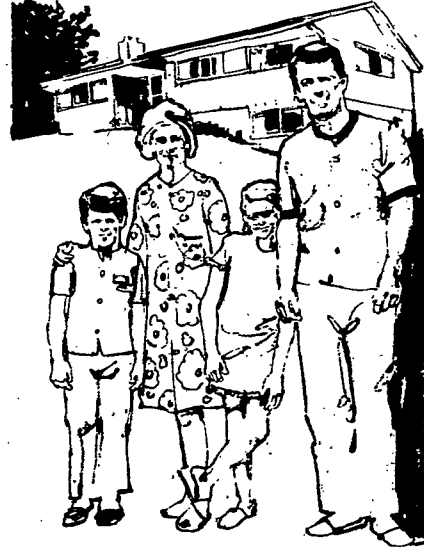
**SCHAUMAN FUNERAL HOME**  
2100 St. Paul St. 342-3400

## "When a customer calls RG&E and says 'I smell gas,' we always treat it as an emergency."



Wayne Crouse Serviceman

"I won't leave a job until I'm 100% sure in my mind that I've taken care of the situation." To look for a gas leak in a home, gas service people like Wayne Crouse work their way through the whole system—inspecting every pipe, every fitting, every gas appliance—until the leak is found.



It takes exactly the right gas/air mixture before gas can ignite. This rarely occurs, but to be safe, if you smell gas, you should immediately leave the premises until you are advised that conditions are no longer hazardous.



"A lot of people don't even know what natural gas smells like." Natural gas actually has no odor. A scent is added to it to enable you to detect leaks.



"If you ever, ever think you smell gas, leave your house and call us." When it comes to checking out a gas leak, RG&E personnel leave nothing to chance. We'll send someone immediately.

If you'd like to learn more about gas safety, send for our free "Natural Gas Handbook." Please allow two to three weeks for delivery.

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