

# Footsteps

## Sister Marie . . . Family Life

Sister Marie Martin feels her work as Family Life Coordinator at St. Rita's Parish in Webster parallels the work of Mother Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

feed the hungry . . . to volunteer their time to help the needy. Sometimes they help at Bethany or Melita House. We show our people where the needs are so they can help."

1800s," Sister Marie said. "She was also interested in caring for the medical needs of people, thus the hospital aspect."

but socially, too," Sister Marie said. "As I was beginning to ease out of administration, I began looking for a position to work with people."

"Our possibilities of ministry are much broader today," Sister Marie said. She thinks Vatican II left some Sisters feeling that the religious life was changing too much for them. But, she admitted, the change was a welcome one to her.



SISTER MARIE

"Her ministry dealt with providing a home for girls, including a sense of community, support and education for them," said Sister Marie. "She was basically a social worker."

Sister Marie feels that this social work was on Mother McAuley's mind when she began, adding that she didn't believe the religious aspect was a prime concern then.

Sister Marie has spent the last three years at St. Rita's. Prior to that, for 11 years, she was principal at Our Lady of Mercy School on Denise Road. She has been in the Mercy order since 1948.

Sister Marie's duties include coordinating the Baptismal and Penance programs, organizing a welcoming committee for new parishioners, working with parish Pre-Cana groups, and parish representative for the Human Development Committee, among many others.

"I don't regret all those years I had of administration and teaching. I'm comfortable with the educational aspects of my job and the other dealings I have with people. I get my greatest satisfaction from them."

"At St. Rita's, we encourage our parishioners to

"Her first concern was to the educational needs of young women in the early

"About 1972, the parish and pastor at St. Rita's began to renew not only liturgically,

## Sister Scholastica . . . Medic

For the past eight years, Sister Scholastica Caulfield, RSM, has been both the religious and the medical presence in Woodhull, a community 24 miles, in any direction, from a hospital.

"Certainly we see anybody who comes. And when you think of it — poverty — you can think of it in all classes. All those we see are impoverished in health. The financially poor come here, but there are many who pay their own way. We take care of Medicaid and Medicare and we accept anybody who comes," she said.

backup, she noted. The whole practice, she said, is backed up by two internists for adults and a pediatrician.

certain amount of teaching in adult medicine, too — in how to take care of one's self.

such services that she provides could just as well be done by another person, not a religious. "But there's a certain amount of service that I as a Sister can do here, because I'm a religious and free from family ties. And I guess that's what religious life is all about.



SISTER SCHOLASTICA

The woman religious is the physician's assistant at the MacDonald Medical Center, a position she feels enables her to fulfill all the challenges of the special "Mercy Fourth Vow," to be ever at the service of the poor, the sick and the ignorant.

The clinic provides well and sick child care, blood pressure regulation, chronic illness followup, and care for acute illnesses with physician

"It certainly fulfills a community need, which is what Mother McAuley would want. The nearest medical facility would be 24 miles away, Corning, Hornell, Bath.

"And there's a lot of reaching out to areas other than medicine. We're interested in the whole family."

"You have to be in it to know there are many demands made on you if you're going to do a good job. And it certainly has to be God-centered or you could run out of energy."

### Sister Kathleen Kohl, SSJ



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

### Helping The Elderly Cope with Life

Today it is necessary to discard the archaic cultural concept of aging and re-evaluate our attitudes toward the ever increasing group of citizens over 64 who are extremely active in society. Late adulthood can promise peaceful, gratifying and creative years when just caring and giving become more important than achievement. Contented older adults who have sufficient finances provide care for themselves and often enjoy leisure traveling, but it is the almost 25 percent who live below the poverty level who give us the greatest concern. These may be the aged who are our family, our friends, our neighbors.

percent of their income, would have to pay 30 percent.

Apart from financial considerations, there are many other factors for concern. Those family members who feel that their parents' way of life is deteriorating can assist in making their lives less traumatic and more rewarding. Gradually we may have seen our parents become less self-reliant and may have been inclined to feel we should take over. Aging adults have the right to control their own lives and only in extreme cases should their children impose their own solutions. Sometimes children think that parents should move from the "old neighborhood" and are surprised that their parents prefer to stay there rather than leave their friends.

approaches have proven helpful to many: getting objective advice from professionals without impulsively placing parent in a dependent situation; providing help, as it is needed or requested, and attempting to build the parent's morale rather than destroying it; bringing family news, assuring the parent that he or she is still needed; bringing snapshots, books, magazines, records or, if one lives a distance away, writing, phoning, or sending messages on tape; discussing options with the parent, if a change in living conditions is advisable; being aware of current legislation and programs for the elderly in order to better assist relatives or elderly neighbors to receive the benefits designated for them.

### Correction

The amounts granted by Eastman Kodak Co. and Xerox Corp. to St. Mary Hospital's construction and modernization program were incorrectly stated in last week's edition.

Kodak has granted \$300,000 and Xerox \$100,000.

Let the key words be love and compassion. This is the best we can do and all we can ask of ourselves.

Sister Kathleen Kohl, SSJ, is a counselor for the aging at the Catholic Family Center.

### Blue Army Vigil, June 4

A First Friday Blue Army Vigil will begin with Mass celebrated by Father William Leone from Holy Redeemer, from 9 to 10 p.m., Friday, June 4, at Holy Rosary Church at 414 Lexington Ave.

Father William Endres, St. Jerome's, will conduct the vigil from 10 to 11 p.m., and Father Robert Meng from Holy Rosary will conduct the 11 to midnight vigil.

According to the projected Reagan budget cutbacks for 1983, the elderly who are living on very small fixed incomes will suffer the greatest hardship, and consequently will be most in need of our assistance. Supplementary Security Income (SSI) is to be cut back \$20 per month, while Medicare costs are to increase by five percent. Medicaid and Food Stamp benefits are to be reduced and those in subsidized housing are to lose 25

Obviously there are times when family members need to intervene. The following

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him to Herod, who was extremely angry with him.