

# Dream Begins to Materialize As Clinic Starts Second Year

By Sister Audrey Synnott, RSM  
For most people, establishing a hearing and speech clinic would be a nightmare. For Sister Wanda Hess, RSM, starting Northwest Hearing and Speech Clinic at 550 Latona Road in Rochester has affirmed a life-time dream.

The closing of a college speech department acted as a catalyst for action.

When the clinic opened in May 1983, Sister Wanda hoped to have 20 individual clients within a year's time. Some facts and figures as of August prove it was a modest estimate.

Presently, Northwest Hearing and Speech Clinic serves 38 individual clients, four nursing homes and about 300 migrant workers. Referrals from schools and health clinics are steadily increasing.

The caseload is already beyond what one speech therapist can handle adequately; and this past summer Ms. Connie Hope-Bly began to practice part time at the clinic.

Growing demand for a full spectrum of speech and audiological evaluations and screening has encouraged the clinic to begin raising funds for the addition of a soundproof room and the purchase of a diagnostic audiometer.

The truest dreams have proven to be those built on a

foundation of generous sacrifice. Northwest Hearing and Speech Clinic is no exception.

Private donations have helped with the purchase of an audiometer, therapy table and testing materials.

The Lions, Rotary and Kiwanis clubs have given time, equipment and money to meet a broad range of clinic needs. Donations of furniture and a typewriter from Eastman Kodak Co. turned a room into an office.

Grants have been particularly beneficial to the clinic's growth: \$3,000 from the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation has set in motion an outreach program to migrant worker families in Monroe and Orleans counties; \$1,000 from the Gannett Foundation provided Peabody Language Tests and other materials which will be used at the clinic, in nursing homes and among the migrants; \$900 from the John F. Wegman Fund purchased the Follet Language Program, to be used in nursing homes and to help migrants learn English as a second language.

As needs grow, so does Sister Wanda's dream — the support of the people of Rochester keeps it coming true. Already children and adults with hearing and speech impairments are being helped toward the fulfillment of their own "impossible" dreams.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## Aiding In the Calling

When I was Catholic chaplain at Sampson College near Geneva, 1946-49, we had a rousing Newman Club which promoted lectures and instructions pertaining to Catholicism; retreats at Geneva Retreat House where Father Gus Aylward was rector. We had dances with girls coming by bus from Nazareth and Keuka colleges. We had a vibrant celebration of Mass, actually doing what post-Vatican II liturgical folks keep writing about, including a dialogue Mass, in Latin at that time, and our people understood the few Latin prayers which the congregation prayed together: Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, etc.

We had a good choir, directed by Lee Flora, a faculty music director; and sturdy congregational singing; lecturers. Our servers performed their complicated ritual functions with virile devotion. I have a hearty contempt for the arrogant declarations: "Of course, before Vatican II, people were spiritually inert." Some were; and some were not, even as today — some are and some are not. I have known few places where devotion and loyalty to Our Lord and His Church were as strong as among these students and faculty members, and among the wives of the married students.

Our second Newman Club president, Peter

Hansen, became a Carmelite Father. Another active Newmanite, Jim Corrigan, became a priest of the diocese of New York and is today a high school principal of a Catholic school. A month ago, Father Hansen phoned: "I am giving a mission talk in Schenectady, Aug. 19, and would like to visit you for a couple days." I had not seen him in 20 years. We met in Auburn, where he did his novitiate at the Carmelite monastery, and where he returned to assist at Mt. Carmel High School. Sadly, both institutions are lost to the Church today. The monastery is now a halfway house for about 20 emotionally disturbed persons, and is run by the Auburn Presbyterian Church. Mt. Carmel High School today is part of the Auburn public school system.

Father Peter Norbert Hansen is today Director of Ministries at Iona College, New Rochelle. We returned to Rochester where I was supplying for Father Joseph Donovan at St. Mark's, Greece. We discussed the state of the Church and the priesthood and seminarians and the sisterhoods. We have six Carmelites who serve our

diocese in Rochester and who have a residence in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. We could not reach them, but sent greetings through Father Jack Healy, O. Carm., one-time professor at our defunct St. Bernard's Seminary, who now teaches religion at McQuaid Jesuit High School.

And now, would you believe that I who am so devoted to the priesthood, have been, to my surprise, a part instrument for a calling to the Presbyterian ministry? This nice letter came recently:

"Dear Father Cuddy, "I was a young man on a trip to Europe in the Fall of 1975. I think you were leading a group of people to see the Pope and I was on my way to visit my father for the first time in 20 years. I recall the warmth of our conversations and how I shared

with you my feeling of being called to the ministry. You were helpful to me, and even wrote to me when I was home in Florida. I deeply appreciate all you did for me. I went to Columbia Seminary and graduated in 1980. Now I have charge of a Presbyterian church in Kentucky. This letter is just to let you know how things have gone. Thank you for all you have done for me. And the Lord bless and keep you."

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