



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Harry Singles lends a helping hand to Dorothy as they embark on one of their many errands.

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voice that hinted her enjoyment was beyond words.

Once Dorothy was safely ensconced in the dentist's chair, Singles settled in the waiting room, complimenting the comfortable atmosphere and relaxing music.

"When I was a child, I went to a dentist they called 'Killer Kane,'" he recalled with a chuckle. "It was nothing like this."

Singles' wife died shortly before he retired two years ago. And although he savors his new-found freedom after more than 34 years with DuPont Company, he finds himself lonely at times despite friends and the company of his shetland sheep dog, Petra.

"I told myself that there's nothing wrong with being lonely," he said, "and of course God is always with me." Maybe that's why, when he saw an ad asking for STAR volunteers, Singles applied for the job. Now he has one client besides Dorothy and has agreed to be on call for emergencies.

STAR encourages volunteers to establish regular schedules with their clients, usually involving weekly trips. But between visits, Singles and other volunteers often call just to talk and keep in touch.

Although the services Singles provides for his clients could be purchased from any number of agencies and companies, no price could be set on the concern he shows when he talks about his clients.

"It's a lot more than just driving them around — you really come to care for the people you meet, and you want to make sure they're going to be all right," he said, adding that he regularly likes to check that smoke alarms and other safety features are working in their homes.

After her appointment, Dorothy and Singles headed for a drugstore and the bank. As they walked through the store, Dorothy's face resembled that of a child in a candy store.

"It's so nice to just look around," she said in satisfaction. "To see the magazines and books. You don't know what it is just to get out and around."

At home she keeps busy reading and cooking, writes to her daughter and grandchildren often, and works for several telephone committees. Planning her main shopping trips at two-week intervals, she freezes perishable foods, and can count on a neighbor for a quick trip when she needs it.

Although her daughter has urged her to come to Michigan, Dorothy was born in Rochester and has lived here all her life. "What's Michigan? I don't know



Harry and Dorothy head toward the car for their final destination and then home.

Michigan," she said.

Although she's on a waiting list to move to a senior citizen's apartment complex, it's a long wait, and she's relieved to know she can count on Harry Singles in the meantime.

Entering the grocery store after a brief stop at the bank, both Dorothy and Singles grab a cart and a list. The walking involved in a bi-weekly shopping trip is exhausting for her, so the two split up and shop separately to shorten the process, meeting at the checkout counter to head for home.

"To a young person, it might sound kind of corny, but when you give, you really do



With half the shopping completed, Harry meets Dorothy near the frozen food section.



Harry patiently waits while Dorothy finishes the necessary paperwork for her prescription.

receive," Singles said of his volunteer work. "Getting to know these people, you really benefit from the wisdom they've accumulated in all their years of living. "Sometimes I fantasize about doing some-

thing really meaningful, like joining the Peace Corps or something ... but I suppose it's easy to overlook the importance of the things you do every day," he added. Dorothy would agree.

The STAR program is a non-medical home support service for frail elderly persons. It is funded by the Monroe County Office on the Aging and the United Way, and services are available to seniors aged 60 and older based on need determined by the program's assessment. There is no charge for services, although donations are requested. STAR always has more requests for services than volunteers. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer or find out more about the program, call 546-7220.

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forth the most charges of "statism," Wilbur said that the bishops are primarily trying to drive home the point that they are raising moral issues.

"Permeating the document is the invitation by the bishops to dialogue," he said.

After a period of discussion and questions for Dr. Wilbur, who rode all night on a train from Indiana to fill in for another planned speaker, Father Charles Mulligan addressed practical and local implications of the bishops' pastoral.

Father Mulligan asked the audience as ministers to view the letter as a call to conversion and change on a personal level as well as on a parish and diocesan level, further stating that "unless we start with what are

the questions in the lives of people, the pastoral will not have a chance to be well-received."

In describing the letter's potential impact, Father Mulligan described a number of possible implementations and emphasized the need to recognize the letter as a teaching document.

Specific areas he mentioned included the education of parish finance committees and those with financial responsibilities at the diocesan level; re-evaluation of diocesan personnel and benefits policies; the teaching role of the church in areas like marriage preparation, sacramental and youth programs with regard to economic decision-making; offering support in dealing with

unemployment and related issues; and corporate responsibility as individual stockholders, on the parochial level, and in terms of diocesan investments policy.

"Let us make a commitment to practical dialogue at the parish, diocesan and regional levels in which we have differing positions and ideas, but are held together by a common commitment to the Gospel, the traditions of our church, and a sense of our own history," asked Father Mulligan in closing.

In his summary, Bishop Clark thanked those present for their investment of time and spirit, noting that "the letter's content must touch us personally and engage us in our own spirits."

"I hope our ongoing work is a place for us to continue to collaborate as pastoral ministers at the diocesan level," Bishop Clark added.

A survey sheet soliciting ideas and suggestions on how best to continue consultation on the economics pastoral at a diocesan level was then distributed for all participants.

Priests, sisters and lay ministers from around the diocese, including Auburn, Ithaca and Elmira as well as Rochester, attended the conference according to Father Jim Schwartz, an organizer of the program. The location of the conference was chosen in an attempt to make the trip more convenient to ministers from areas other than Rochester, he said.