

# Missioners

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sight, Sister Agnes Donovan can attest to the impact her teaching and counseling has made on hundreds of young Guatemalan women who have studied at Colegio Monte Maria, a Maryknoll-run college and secondary school in Guatemala City. "Seeing the response to our efforts in many of our graduates who try, whatever their careers, to defend human rights and dignity, and to be of service to their country, is bringing about change for a more humane world," Sister Donovan said during a recent visit to the United States. "Sharing mission with a dedicated group of local teachers who are committed to the challenge of forming Christian leaders among the youth of Guatemala has been a major source of satisfaction for me."

While the distance Rochester's missioners have traveled must be counted by some measure beyond miles, they nevertheless continue to affect those who know and support them, those who hear their stories, and those who will someday welcome them back home.

"I don't know what (Mark's) profession will be when he leaves this, but it will be people-oriented, serving people, because that's the way he is," said Elizabeth VanDerwater, Mark's mother. "He often said he felt he was going to get out of this a lot more than he would give."

Yet in contrast to the challenge and reward implicit in a mission vocation are struggles nearly all missioners face in some degree -- disillusionment, frustration, disorientation.

Imagine the loneliness of Mark VanDerwater, who, for the first time in his life will celebrate his December 22nd birthday and the Christmas holiday away from his family, immersed among people he has only just met, whose language and culture he has only begun to grasp.

Imagine the shocks Sister Esther Donovan must absorb when, after more than 50 years of

serving the people of Micronesia, she occasionally returns to the United States for brief visits. For those sacrifices and struggles, and for the gift that each mission vocation is to everyone who comprises the Diocese of Rochester, Christmas is a good time to be thankful.



Sister Agnes Donovan, M.M. is a missionary at Colegio Monte Maria Guatemala City, Guatemala.



Singer Rosemary Clooney joins in a few carols with students from St. Joseph's School in Penfield during the evening performance of her White Christmas Show at the Eastman Theatre, Dec. 11. Approximately 85 students from several diocesan schools took part in the holiday show, which was a fundraiser for the Founders Club of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester.

## Year-end renewal marks Cenacle New Year's Eve

Father Joseph Cantanise and the Cenacle Sisters will celebrate a "Year End Renewal" on December 31. Individuals attending will have the option to stay overnight.

The evening will include a presentation, reflection time and Eucharistic liturgy at midnight to welcome in the new year. Refreshments will follow.


For those staying overnight, a breakfast and a prayer will also take place. The offering for those staying overnight is \$25, while the cost

for those staying New Year's Eve only is \$15. Call 716/271-8755 for information.

## Decorating ideas needed

The Liturgy Committee of St. Patrick's Church in Owego has scheduled Thursday, Dec. 22, as the night parishioners will decorate the church for Christmas.

Some people with creative ideas will be needed for ideas. Call Father Scott M. Kubinski at 607/687-1068 for information.



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**Space Reservations:**  
February 3, 1989

**Copy Deadline**  
February 10, 1989

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Father Edwin Metzger will be going to Nairobi, Kenya for a five-year assignment in January.

