

Disabled

Continued from page 11

our help and support, understanding that, for many, this is the first opportunity ever to live outside of the institution or to make friends in the community.

We minister to their social needs by inviting them to participate in the social life of the church. For the most part, developmentally disabled individuals are not going to be invited to join such local civic organizations as the Lions Club or the Rotary.

Their opportunity for a social life is naturally limited by their disability. The church is the one opportunity they have to be "included" in the social fabric of the community. We minister to their spiritual needs by including them in our worship celebrations and, especially, the Mass.

I have the wonderful opportunity of working throughout the four counties with many different churches and organizations that have developed creative and innovative ministries.

The Church of the Nazareen in Clifton Springs has developed a home-visitation ministry that sends volunteers to visit one of the homes in the community twice a month. They sing a few songs, spend some time visiting with the individuals, share

their prayers and concerns, and then have refreshments. They also send birthday cards and visit when the individuals are in the hospital.

Two Lutheran churches — St. John's in Victor and St. Paul's in Penn Yan — have started a program in which they invite developmentally disabled individuals living in the community to come to their churches once a month to do an arts and crafts project, pray, sing and have refreshments.

The Methodist Church in Williamson sponsors Friendship Class, a religious-education program designed specifically to meet the needs of developmentally disabled individuals living in Ontario, Marion and Williamson.

The Heritage Baptist Church in Marion provides transportation to church on Sunday morning, as does the Baptist Church in Rose. St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Newark sends volunteers to the residences to assist the staff in getting residents to church. We have volunteers who take people to Mass in almost every community in the four counties.

Catholic parishes have been less involved with this part of the ministry. My hope is that as word gets out, more Catholic parishes and individuals will get involved.

For those developmentally disabled individuals who cannot attend regular wor-

ship services, I help parishes provide special opportunities for spiritual growth and enrichment. At St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls, I worked with parish staff and volunteers to establish a Community Worship Service on the third Tuesday of the month for the developmentally disabled, families and friends.

St. Mary's in Canandaigua offers a service for those living in the Canandaigua and Rushville areas on the second Sunday of the month. St. Mark's in Newark offers a service on the third Sunday of the month.

These are wonderful, joyous services, designed to be ecumenical and open to everyone. We sing, we pray, we celebrate, we learn and we share God's love. For many developmentally disabled individuals, this is the first time they have ever been able to experience a real church environment. It's wonderful to watch their expressions as they come in to the church for the first time. It's like a whole new world has opened up for them.

These services are a bridge opportunity for people in the community as well. I always invite the community to come and worship with us, and to see the joy and happiness the developmentally disabled individuals bring to the service. The services enable the community at large to accept these individuals and to understand the gifts they bring to the church.

I have found that I am ministered to much more than I minister during these services. They are very much pure in spirit and celebrative. I always walk out with a smile on my face. I can't imagine

anything more rewarding that enabling people to experience Christ and to share that experience with friends.

Although I start the various programs, it is not my intent to run them forever. My ministry is to enable others to minister to the developmentally disabled. In this way, the developmentally disabled become part of the faith community.

As a deacon, I come in the name of the church to serve the needs of those who would otherwise not have the opportunity to know our Blessed Lord and the richness of his church.

I serve as a consultant, a facilitator, a coordinator, an educator, and a resource person. My success is a result of the help and cooperation I receive from our priests, sisters, deacons, parish staff, ministers, volunteers and my family.

This is a ministry in which anyone can share. It is a wonderful opportunity for confirmation groups to start a service ministry. Senior citizens with limited mobility can send birthday and get-well cards. Those with musical talents can provide music for the special services or go to the homes and sing.

Volunteers are needed to assist staff with such special outings as sporting events and camping. Others may be interested in helping prepare individuals for the sacraments of baptism and confirmation.

If you would like to share in this most rewarding and wonderful ministry, I invite you to call me at 315/331-1700 or 315/483-6654.

Sister Sigrid Kloiber, SSND, at 51; former pastoral assistant, teacher

Sister Sigrid Kloiber, a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 31 years and pastoral assistant for the Northern Cayuga Cluster from 1986-89, died Saturday, Oct. 27, 1990, in the SSND motherhouse chapel in Wilton, Conn. She was 51-years-old.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Sigrid was celebrated Tuesday, Oct. 30, in the motherhouse chapel in Wilton. Interment was at St. Mary Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.

Friends are invited to attend a memorial Mass for Sister Sigrid in the chapel of St. Boniface School, 330 Gregory St., on Saturday, Nov. 17, at 9 a.m. Members of the Northern Cayuga Cluster community celebrated a memorial Mass for Sister Sigrid on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

In addition to serving as pastoral assistant for the cluster, Sister Sigrid taught at the elementary and high school levels, and worked in community and parish service throughout the Northeast and Puerto Rico.

She taught at Rochester's Holy Redeemer School from 1968 until it closed in 1975. She later taught at Rochester's St. Boniface School from 1980-82 and Bishop Kearney High School in 1983.

Born June 6, 1939, in Rostock, Germany, Sister Sigrid, formerly Sister Albert Mary, entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Centereach, N.Y. Her first teaching assignment came at St. Leo's School in Irvington, N.J., in 1960.

Sister Sigrid remained there until 1967.

After teaching for one year at St. Anthony of Padua School in South Ozone Park, N.Y., she was assigned to Holy Redeemer.

Sister Marie Clare Stoe, SSND, who became a longtime friend of Sister Sigrid after meeting her at Holy Redeemer, said she will remember Sister Sigrid as a "kind and gentle lady."

"She was very soft-spoken, and she would greet people with a wide, friendly smile," Sister Stoe said. "She had a very comforting face."

Sister Stoe noted that Sister Sigrid was also known for her dry sense of humor. "She loved puns," she said.

Because of her early-life experiences in Germany during World War II, Sister Sigrid was also a friend to those who were suffering, according to Sister Stoe.

"She just cared so much for anyone who was suffering; she saw a lot of misery (in Germany) and she carried that with her throughout her life."

Sister Stoe added that Sister Sigrid was especially fond of her years serving in the Rochester diocese, which "was like a home to her."

Sister Sigrid is survived by her parents, Albert and Carola (Wand) Kloiber of Lewiston, N.Y.; three brothers: Carl of Centereach, N.Y.; George of Manchester, N.Y.; and John of Lewiston; two sisters, Elizabeth Steisslinger of Morristown, Tenn., and Joan McKeever of Aylet, Va.; as well as 16 nieces and nephews.

— Richard A. Kiley

Charity ball scheduled to benefit St. Mary's

ROCHESTER — The 35th annual Seton Ball to benefit St. Mary's Hospital will take place Saturday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Rochester Convention Center. The evening will begin with cocktails followed by a dinner and dancing.

Dr. Walter T. Maxwell, a head and neck surgery specialist at St. Mary's, will be honored at the ball for 35 years of service to the hospital.

Proceeds from the ball are earmarked for the purchase of cardiac diagnostic equipment — a Holter Monitoring system valued at \$55,000 and a Rapid Electrophoresis machine worth \$60,000.

For information, contact Annabelle Pugliese at 716/464-3255.

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