

Senior, 99, stays young at heart by helping others

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — Nearly 40 years after her retirement, Mary Gier Clark isn't about to slow down. In fact, she keeps up a pace that would tire a woman half her age.

A daily communicant for over 80 years, the 99-year-old Clark continues to make house calls for the Legion of Mary. She is still an active member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, which she helped found in 1920, and of the Sacred Heart Altar Society, Third Order Franciscans.

Clark's volunteer work is not restricted to the Lincoln area, either. Another of her favorite pastimes is making rosaries, which she gives to Father Jerome Pokorny of Valparaiso, Neb., for distribution to the missions.

Every Monday morning, Clark attends Mass at Lancaster Manor Retirement Home in Lincoln. Before Mass



she helps residents get to the chapel and afterward she visits with them.

In addition, Clark regularly visits the Regional Center, the state hospital for the mentally disturbed. She takes with her sandwiches she has made for some of the patients. After lunch she joins the patients in playing bingo.

Volunteering and doing for others has always been a part of her life. Born in 1893, she did not wed until 1929, the year her mother died. Her father lived with her for 12 years after her marriage to Kenneth Clark.

In 1911, she began work as a lino-type setter for a small German newspaper in Seward, Neb., earning \$15 a week. Her last job was with *The State Journal*, forerunner of *The Lincoln Journal*. She retired in 1952 after 33 years.

Asked about her plans for the future, Clark said she wants to stay in her own home as long as possible. This year she plans on having a garden again and canning the vegetables.

She also encourages others to become involved in helping others.

"It's the best thing we can do," she said. "We always get more out of doing things for people than it costs in giving."

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