

Called by God

HOW DO THE SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH LIVE IN TODAY'S WORLD?



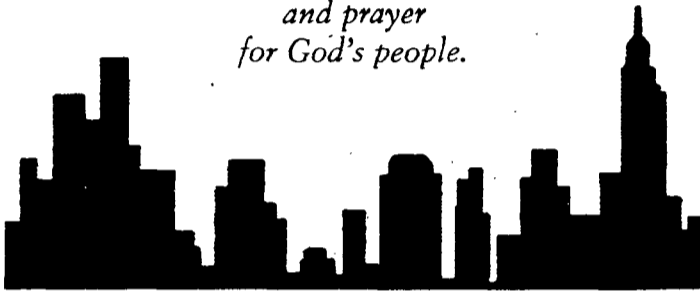
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Final vows

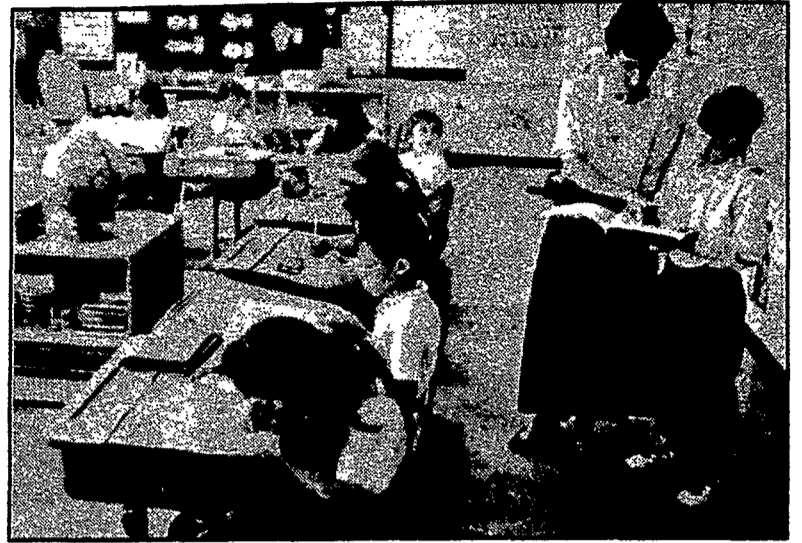
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as Holy Cross and St. Andrew's, both in Rochester, Sister Rosica said she tries to bring the spirit of her order to her third-graders every day by having them read the "Children's Suscipe." The prayer begins "My God, I will belong to You forever," and is a variation on a prayer originally written by Sister Catherine McAuley, the Irish foundress of the Mercy order.

"It helps me to deepen within my students their relationship with God," she said of the suscipe, or prayer. She added that the prayer's emphasis on trust informed her choice for the theme of her final profession liturgy: "I know the One in whom I've put my trust" (2 Timothy 1:12).

She commented that her order is well-noted for its social concern, a concern she tries to foster in her students by having them examine current events and pray for those involved. For example, she said, her third-graders have prayed recently for the children of the late Princess Diana of Great Britain as well as for the soul of the late Mother Teresa and the victims of a recent earthquake in Assisi, Italy.

"I ask them 'Who is it we need to pray for today?'" she said. "We've gotten beyond just praying for animals. We pray for each other, our families, anyone out sick. It's to move the kids be-



Greg Francia/Staff photographer

Carolyn Rosica works with Brendan Warren Oct. 8 at Seton Catholic School, Brighton.

yond themselves."

Sister Rosica added that although she might consider other avenues of ministry, she is content for now to continue teaching at Seton. Few jobs allow one to so touch young children's lives, she explained.

"I feel the closest I'm going to come to motherhood is these kids," she said. "I can love these kids as much as I want ... because I'm not tied down to another person."

She added that working in a Catholic school allows her the freedom to move beyond academically mentoring her students.

"If there's one thing I want them to leave here with, it's not just to read and write, but to know who God is and what a faithful God he is," she said.

For the past few years, Sister Rosica has been guided toward her final profession by Sister Janet Korn, RSM, the Mercy order's new membership director. Sister Korn said Sister Rosica embodied the aspects of the best kind of woman religious today, including a clear sense of purpose and a deep spirituality.

"She's a wonderful, energetic person who's very willing to serve and anxious to commit her life to God's people," Sister Korn said.

Sister Rosica did not use lofty rhetoric about herself, but reserved it for her order.

"It's being part of something much bigger than me," she said. "It's sharing a life with women who have the same dreams, the same vision."

Former Fairport resident ordained deacon in Vatican City

Eric Phillips of Church of the Assumption, Fairport, was ordained a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Rochester Oct. 2 at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

Deacon Phillips is a student at the Pontifical North American

College in Rome. He is scheduled to graduate in 1998 and to be ordained a priest June 6, 1998, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester.

The son of Betty and Anthony Phillips Jr., Deacon Phillips holds a bachelor's degree in

mathematics from Nazareth College, Rochester. He served his pastoral year at the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community.

A native of Pittsburgh, Pa., Deacon Phillips and his family moved to Fairport when he was 3.

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