LINUL LUNDA LULUR DE PROPRIORIA ILLA

Love blooms a second time around at church

By John Strange Catholic News Service

SOUTHERN PINES, N.C. - Charlie and Sophie Dupont are getting a second chance at love, not that their first chances weren't successful.

Sophie was married 58 years to first husband Ernest; Charlie was married 47 years to Valerie. Their spouses died within three days of each other in July 1997.

Charlie and Sophie, both 80 years old, had never met until this summer, when each volunteered to help with vacation Bible school at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Southern Pines. Fifteen weeks after they met, Father James F. Butler, St. Anthony's pastor, presided at their Aug. 8 wedding.

"Think of the circumstances that led up to us even meeting," said Charlie, looking at his bride of just a few weeks.

Charlie, a retired Air Force pilot, had spent years fallen away from his Catholic faith, he told the NC Catholic, newspaper of the Raleigh Diocese.

"I went by the Golden Rule," said Charlie, explaining the philosophy he held while away from the church. "I figured that if I treated everybody right, He'd take care of me upstairs.'

After serving 23 years in the Air Force, he retired in 1974 as a lieutenant colonel and moved with wife Valerie to Southern

They were happy, but then Valerie became ill. "My wife had three cancers in the two or three years," Charlie said. "I spent all my time taking care of her."

He said that when she died about 14

months ago, he was completely devastated. "I didn't care about anything," he said. At this point the Golden Rule "wasn't

He found himself in St. Anthony's. "I just walked in; it was open," he said, explaining it was his first time in a church in

He tracked down Father Butler, and they talked.

'Charlie was going through a grieving process, and he came to the point where it was time to take charge of his life and put it in a new direction," said the priest.

Sophie's story began in Pittsburgh, where she had been a volunteer at her parish. She and husband Ernest moved to Southern Pines at a doctor's recommendation. A year after her husband's death she checked in with St. Anthony's to see what she could do.

The church welcomed her help. "It was wonderful," she said. "They all accepted me, and hugged me, and made me feel real comfortable."

When the parish's vacation Bible school started in May, someone assigned Charlie and Sophie to work as a team. Their friendship "clicked," Charlie said, and they spent a lot of time together. But both were cautious.

'We knew all about being lonesome, we knew about wanting to be with people, we knew about rebounding," he said. "We kept telling ourselves 'watch out. We just want someone as a companion.'

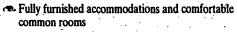
"And finally came the day when I actually said to myself, 'Charlie, you're kidding yourself. You love her.' I found out you can have a second love in a lifetime," he said.



CNS photo by John Strange/N.C. Catholic

Sophie and Charlie Dupont were married by Father James F. Butler this August after meeting as volunteers for vacation Bible school at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Southern Pines, N.C.

SPECIAL PLACE CALLED HOME



Delicious & nutritious meals served to you each day

Security • Transportation • Activities ersonal Care Assistance . . . a blend of concern,

patience & skill monitoring medication, assisting with the activities of daily living including bathing and dressing, with a professional staff, always available, 24 hours a day.

Senior Quarters **Assisted Living Residence**

716-225-3010

at Greece Ridge (Penfield 716-381-0282

150 TOWNGATE ROAD ROCHESTER, NY

2006 FIVE MILE LINE ROAD Penfield, NY

Formerly known as Town Gate Manor and Town Gate East

Call 1-800-986-5800 for information about Senior Quarters locations throughout the U.S.A. Visit us on the internet at http://www.seniorquarters.com

MECTHOOD COMMONE WEST MOOD COMMONS

Specializing in Adult Care Services For Semors



Westwood Commons, a new 120-bed DePaul Adult Care Community located at 50 Union Square Soulevard in North Chili, is now open and accepting admissions. ons serves elderly individuals who are unable to live independently, but de not require continual medical or nursing care.

A lifestyle for your future...

home like environment ~ Individualized care programs nance 44 hours a day ~ Medication supervision ~ Dedicated staff eping & kumdry services ~ Activities, social events and outings

Maion Square Boulevard - North Chili, NY 14514 information or to schedule a personal tour call (716) 293-2060.

When Interest Income Counts, It's time to call Gen-see.



Earn More, Worry Less

Go with experience you can trust...

Because Gen-See cares about your retirement money!

For 23 positive years... **GEN-SEE** investors have done better for 5 Great Reasons:

- Regular monthly checks
- No fees or commissions
- Low minimum initial investment ...\$5,000.00
- · High yields and capital growth
- · Rate of interest guaranteed for term of Certificate



Make a fresh start...RIGHT NOW! 8.51% annually. Call 1-800-507-4393



Gen-See Capital Corporation