

SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Nuns' publishing efforts appeal to wide audience

By Dawn Gibeau
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Two Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and their colleagues in St. Paul are sharing the Gospel with children and adults across the nation through Good Ground Press.

Sisters Joan Mitchell and Therese Sherlock, both 59, began working together in 1981 as editorial development associates. Today, their weekly magazines from Good Ground are read by 400,000 children in parishes and schools — including many in the Rochester Diocese, from Brockport to Newark.

"They're just a fine source for lectionary-based resources," said Sister Karen Dietz, SSJ, coordinator of sacramental catechesis for the Rochester Diocese.

The sisters' work is rooted in Scripture. Sister Sherlock, a librarian who also taught at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, has a master's degree in library science from Columbia University and is working on a master of divinity degree at St. Paul Seminary.

Sister Mitchell earned a master's degree in theological studies at Harvard Di-

vinity School and a doctorate in New Testament Scripture at Luther Seminary in St. Paul.

The press shares space on the second floor of the congregation's administration center with the sisters' health clinic offices.

It produces five magazines — *Visions*, *Venture*, *Good News for Children*, *Promise* and *Seeds* — for pre-K through junior high students. The magazines are published by Peter Li Inc., in Dayton, Ohio, as editions of the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies.

The Good Ground team creates and designs the publications, while Pflaum prints and markets them.

In 1988, when the nuns wanted to produce *Spirit*, a Gospel-based weekly for high school students, they launched Good Ground with a \$40,000 grant from their community.

Now in its 12th year, *Spirit* has 25,000 subscribers, mostly parishes. Good Ground produces, markets and publishes it. Sister Mitchell told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, that the name of the press was suggested by *On Good Ground*, a history of the congregation's St. Paul province.



Dave Hrbacek/The Catholic Spirit

St. Joseph Sisters Joan Mitchell (left) and Therese Sherlock show samples of the materials produced by Good Ground Press.

"It comes from the parable of the sower," she said. "We thought that, since the seed is the word of God, it would be a perfect name for a lectionary-focused publisher."

However, most Good Ground publications simply say "published by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet" because the press is a community work, not a separate corporation.

Sunday by Sunday, a magazine for adults begun by Good Ground in 1990, is used in about 22,000 parishes, especially by RCIA and other small faith groups. The purpose of this weekly, which contains Scripture reflections and questions, is to "put in dialogue the word of our lives and the word of Scripture," Sister Mitchell said.

Dietz noted that Good Ground was one of the first resources available for a variety of age groups, beginning with the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies.

"I'm sure that every parish at some point or another has used those," she said of the children's magazines.

Good Ground publishes other materials as well. "Moving in the Spirit" is a confirmation program requested by religious educators who were using *Spirit* magazine. Designed as six two-hour sessions, the program is now in its third edition.

The press published its first book in 1997. Titled *Growing Toward Intimacy* by Bob Bartlett, the book aims to help Catholic teens integrate sexuality and spirituality.

Two new fall titles focus on social justice. One is *Our Father, Jesus' Jubilee Prayer*. Sister Mitchell said this book evolved from a talk she gave at an archdiocesan Sowers of Justice dinner, where she realized the Lord's Prayer "has all the jubilee concepts in it."

The other book, *Poverty Project*, by Linda Hanson, is a curriculum resource for junior and senior high school teachers.

"There is a lot of social justice in all our publications," Sister Mitchell said. "The Gospel calls for it."

Good Ground writers "hand on the (Catholic) tradition as we know it," she said, and they "add in the richness that scholars are finding" in current theological studies, especially about women.

Of the drive behind Good Ground, Sister Mitchell said, "We think the Holy Spirit is at work in ordinary people. We want to help ordinary people nurture each other."

Another criterion is enjoyment of the material, Sister Sherlock added. "We always try to have fun," she said. "We want the publications to be fun."

One bedroom garden apartments for Senior Citizens



1 bedroom second floor apartments now available \$530.00 per month

- Security
 - Independence
 - Convenient Location
- Currently Accepting Applications

Please call Mr. LeChase at (716) 467-4544

North Village Apartments

2515 Culver Road
(located near the Shire at Culverton)

"I have **eliminated** **WHAT** from my vocabulary."



Sequel Tympanette hearing aids have enabled me to comfortably perform my job as a musician and teacher. I now hear the orchestra with complete balance. Music and conversation have now been restored to the comfort zone."

John Beck

Professor of Percussion
Eastman School of Music

Call today to schedule a complimentary evaluation and demonstration of this new technology...

Better Hearing Centers

227-9920

1561 Long Pond Road
Suite 115
Park Ridge Professional Bldg.

220 Alexander Street
Suite 508
Genesee Hospital Professional Bldg.

Thoughts to Consider



EDWIN SULEWSKI
Funeral Director

When should we get back to a regular routine after a loved one dies?

No two people react in exactly the same way to the death of a loved one! Some people do well by plunging into old routines or setting up new ones. Others need time to adjust without the deceased. They need time to express feelings, to learn new ways of doing things and to put affairs in order. The critical matter is that the grieving person be aware of and willing to deal with the changes that death created. Activity solely for the purpose of escaping feelings and running from the pain will not work. On the other hand inactivity can further depression. The newly bereaved should take time to deal with feelings and then begin the tasks necessary to make life meaningful.

SCHAUMAN-SULEWSKI FUNERAL HOME

NEW LOCATION

1717 Portland Avenue
Just North of Ridge Road
(716) 342-3400

REVERSE MORTGAGES

Learn the Facts

If you are 62 Yrs. or older, a reverse mortgage can supply you with additional monthly income or instant cash based on equity in your 1-4 family home or condo while you maintain title and ownership of the property. For info and assistance about government insured reverse mortgages at no obligation!! Call today!

MARIO L. MARTIRANO
REVERSE MORTGAGE SPECIALIST

1-800-881-2954

AGENCY FOR CONSUMER EQUITY MTGS., INC.

Satellite Office:

2300 West Ridge Rd., 4th Floor,
Rochester, NY 14626

Registered Mortgage Broker - NYS Banking
Department Loans arranged through 3rd party

SPECIALIZING IN FHA/HUD HECM
AND FNMA REVERSE MORTGAGES