

Sisters Have New Habits, New Ways

It hardly merits a second look these days to see a nun or two or three—in a short habit and simple headpiece.

The sisters of the heavy robes and stiffly starched linen are the rarity now, and it's hard to remember that the change has been effected in just a few short years.

And most of those choosing the new type of habit can stand back and view it—in its role as a small part of a great change in the Catholic Church—as an innovation that brings both more freedom, and more responsibility.

Sister Mary Martina of Madonna College's faculty put it this way:

"You do feel a new freedom of movement. It's certainly an advantage in going up and down stairs.

"But you also feel restraint—the need to be careful in sitting down and bending over."

"I think it adds to our self-discipline."

A linen band exposing some of the hair and a short veil.

THE CHAPTER MEETING last August in Lodi, N.J., approved a modification of the habit change. Sister Martina was a delegate to the chapter and head of the community life committee there.

"We saw the need to adapt the habit," she said, "modifying it with respect to length and making it more becoming to the headpiece."

Again varied feelings were indicated in questionnaires distributed. Finally three habits were approved—the traditional one that had been worn for many years, a modification of the traditional with less fullness and a contemporary garb. The length could be ankle, mid-calf or just below the knee.

All are now in use, but Sister Martina noted that the sister is more and more to the contemporary habit, cut in a fairly fitted style and worn either with regular or sleeveless bolero jacket.



THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT — Two faculty members and a student at Madonna College show the variation in garb currently being worn by Felician Sisters. Sister Mary Maureen, left, nursing instructor, wears the traditional habit that was the only one until a couple of years ago. At the right is Sister Mary Madonna, head of the biology department, in the contemporary habit. Sister Mary Joanne, center, is a student from South America and she wears a contemporary version of the light habit used in other climates. (Observer photo)

SISTER MARTINA, a member of the Felician order that established staffs Madonna, traced the change in habit in her order, commenting that probably the method was typical of most orders.

"It was Vatican II that began the move to make the church more contemporary, more a part of these times," she said.

"One part of this was to update the garb that had been designed for the religious of medieval times."

The move found immediate acceptance among Felician sisters on at least one count.

"Our headpieces were starched and needed a lot of ironing," Sister Martina explained. "The manpower problem was enormous."

"SOME OF the senior sisters were hesitant about the new garb at first," Sister explained, "but they are gradually coming to like it."

With the change in style, the Felician's view of poverty is not forgotten.

"We do not want to waste material, so we have made arrangements for each sister to have one new habit by the companies that do this work," she said. "Then we are remarking our old ones in the new style for a second habit. The wool and rayon blended material is the same brown color as before."

THE FELICIAN'S first move toward change was in the headpiece, and the first experiments were done by the community life committee in October and November of 1967.

"We set up some guidelines by sending out questionnaires to all nuns in our community," said sister Martina, who headed the local Felician's community life committee.

"We found there was a definite desire for change, but not drastic change."

Two new models of headpieces evolved, and the one that found the greatest acceptance was known as the Livonia model because it was worked out in the part of the order in this area.

Instead of a long veil and faces framed in lots of starched linen, "it consists of

A LOT OF THE SISTERS have brushed up on their sewing to work on their habits, Sister Martina noted, and Madonna will offer a course in sewing this summer.

That's just one of the side changes of the new garb.

Another is a summer series of lectures that will deal with poise and grooming and femininity.

"The old habit covered a multitude," she added succinctly.

"We found there was a definite desire for change, but not drastic change."

Two new models of headpieces evolved, and the one that found the greatest acceptance was known as the Livonia model because it was worked out in the part of the order in this area.

Instead of a long veil and faces framed in lots of starched linen, "it consists of

Family Sees Difference

It's Just A Symbol, But

(The clothing doesn't make the nun, of course. But Observer staff member Sue Shaughnessy found that a new individual emerged when her own sister simplified the religious garb she had worn for years. Possibly other families have noted a like change.)

BY SUE SHAUGHNESSY

The change in nun's garb might be startling and the most noticeable, but it's merely an exterior symbol.

What follows is a purely personal view of the changes made by the various religious orders. It's the reaction of one person in a specific situation. It wouldn't be surprising, however, if the reaction and experiences are shared by others.

CONSIDER that I was just

11-years-old when my older sister packed her bags for the journey to Monroe and vocation as a teaching member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ISHM) religious community.

Add almost 19 years and the inevitable expansion of a family with assorted in-laws and the next generation ranging from teenagers to babies.

During this time the contact with the nun-sister have been relatively infrequent and formal.

One reason is that the aunt is around much more than she ever used to be. The other is that there is no big deal about the nun's hair showing, the nun sitting down to eat a meal with the family or any other perfectly normal family activity.

That's the reaction to the new habit. The formality is gone. The atmosphere is informal now, but much more natural.

THE CHANGE in the nun's habits is a visible sign of the change wrought by Vatican II. The change is really deeper than that.

Today nuns are projecting a more human image. Religious orders still remain (and probably should) their emphasis on community life.

However, it seems that the religious communities have finally begun to realize that there are many different facets to a person's life.

People participate in many different communities. They have a family life, office activities, church activities, social and school activities and many more.

The making room for participation in all these varied communities is really the big change in the everyday life of the religious.



PRETTY MUSIC Sixteen-month-old Tracy Beth thinks she's going to like the record player that the Wagon Wheel club at Livonia presented to St. Mary Hospital last week, along with a \$300 savings bond for purchase of other new equipment in the hospital's proposed playroom. Sister Brian Marie holds Tracy, and Mrs. Stobart Walsh represents the newcomers' organization. (Observer photo by Vince Wick)

Y Offers 'Compleat Stratford'

"'Compleat Stratford' might be a novel way to describe the package service offered by the YWCA for one-day trips to the Canadian Shakespearean center this summer.

The package includes air-conditioned motorcoach transportation, matinee theatricals and dinner at Dalton's Restaurant. A YWCA escort accompanies each group.

Slated for this season are "Measure for Measure" on June 28; Moliere's "Tartuffe" on July 19; and "Hamlet" on August 16. All Saturday trips, departures are at 7 a.m. from the Downtown YWCA Building, 2200 Wilbernet, and arrivals back in Detroit are scheduled for approximately 10 p.m. the same night. The cost is \$18 and \$20.

Reservations can be made by calling the YWCA Program Office at WO 1-9220, Ext. 65.

The Observer Women

Pesticides Subject For L.V.V.

m. m. memos

Pesticides will be the topic of the Livonia League of Women Voters' last meeting until fall, Thursday, June 12, at 8:15 p.m. in the home of Mrs. Winthrop Sears, 16845 Canterbury.

A program will be presented on pesticides by Mrs. Sears and Mrs. Jay Lively.

Two questions on pesticides will be considered for consensus.

The first is whether the use of DDT and other persistent pesticides should be restricted until such time as the scientific question of their effect on water quality has been conclusively resolved.

The other question is whether other agencies and means besides the Department of Agriculture should be included in making final decisions about pesticides use.

Also on the agenda for the evening will be a report on the state convention to be given by Mrs. David Andrews and Mrs. Robert Bennett.

Any women interested in attending the league meetings are welcome. Prospective members may call Mrs. David Andrews at 464-0070.

The national wire service that once was my employer has a special jargon for its bureau-to-bureau wire conversation. Originated in the earlier days of telegraphy, it puts a premium on brevity and economy of words.

So "we don't have" comes across the wires as "unhave." "As soon as possible" is translated "soonest" and "how please?" is an economical way to say "what's going on there?"

I suppose this lingo is the source of some words in common usage, like "update," and I'm sure that anyone who ever has used it regularly doesn't ever quite eliminate it from the thought processes.

Anyway, I keep thinking how convenient this vocabulary would be for busy time rapid-fire family conversation.

"Unfind red blouse," one of the girls might message me while frantically dressing for school.

"Unpushed in wash," I answer. "Suggest underbed check."

Or I come in and find the kitchen a worse mess than it should be. "Dishes undone." I message the guilty party. "How please?" "Homework uptied," she answers.

One of my favorite messages was sent to a foreign correspondent who had expressed his ignorance over some situation with a statement of grievances that left out any consideration for brevity.

What his bureau boss wired back was "Unkeep shirt."

What a great family slogan!

—Margaret Miller

Hearty Spring Dish

Let your first cookout feature milk-fed spring lamb and zucchini. Use shoulder lamb chops, browned in a skillet, over a barbecue briques fire.

Remove chops and drain off the drippings. Cook onion, garlic and zucchini for a minute or two in a little serving dish before adding to returning the chops and the vegetable sauce to the fire.

Wayne Dunlap of the humanities faculty at Schoolcraft Community College will speak on the proposed new SCC cultural arts center for members of the Plymouth Business and Professional Women's Club, meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 16, in the Jacob Room of Hillside Inn.

Members of other BPW groups in the Schoolcraft area have been invited to hear his talk.

Also on the dinner meeting program is a silent auction, with proceeds going to the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra which Dunlap heads.

Automobile accidents in 1968 injured more than 4,400,000 persons on America's highways. Driver error, according to annual statistics, was responsible for more than 60 per cent of last year's highway casualties.

St. Clair Carpet slashes prices left and right to make this spectacular event possible!

FROM AMERICA'S LEADING MILLS A WIDE SELECTION OF COLORS & TEXTURES BUY WHAT YOU NEED ON BUDGET TERMS

WHILE IT LASTS! This week only while supplies last. Some are limited... come in early!

JUST TAKE A GANDER AT THESE SIZZLING VALUES!

501 Nylon TWEED 8 1/2 yd. 12 ft. w. only. \$5.95 value \$3.87 sq. yd.	Barwick Luxurious Heavy 501 NYLON 10 beautiful solid colors. Four tweed combinations in 12 and 15 foot widths. A \$7.95 value \$4.95 sq. yd.	Barwick Heavy Plush ACRILAN 15 beautiful colors in 12 and 15 foot widths. A \$9.95 value \$6.87 sq. yd.
--	---	--

ROOM-SIZE REMNANTS!

12x17 Green 501 Nylon	\$65
12x11.10 Black and White Wool Tweed	\$64
12x11.5 Gold Nylon Plush	\$49
12x11 Green Wool Tweed	\$75
11x12.5 Marton Acrylic	\$33
10x12 Beige Tip Shear Wool	\$53
12x11 Mushroom Acrilan	\$48
12x11 Olive Gold Super Kodel	\$59
12x11 Avacado Heavy Wool Plush	\$65
12x11 Gold 501 Nylon Tweed	\$79
12x11 Rustic 501 Nylon Tweed	\$79
12x11 Gold Tweed (Kitchin)	\$49
7'11x11 Beige 501 Nylon Tweed	\$30

Nationally Advertised Heavy Tip Sheared KODEL Seventeen vibrant colors. A \$10.50 value **\$6.95** sq. yd.

CAN'T COME IN? Phone GA 7-1400. Our carpet consultant will call at your home with samples... no obligation or cost.

St. Clair CARPET Livonia, Est. 1955 8040 JOY ROAD (between Inkster and Middlebelt)

Phone **GA 7-1400** or **KE 8-1210** Open Daily 9-9, Tues. 9-6 Member Detroit Floor Covering Assoc.

AT THESE PRICES YOU JUST CAN'T GO WRONG!