Separated or divorced Catbolics may feel they are left to live out a lonely existence outside of the Church but that situation is changing to Sr. Donna Hart. (Photo by Tracy Baker)

Reaching out to the troubled

Divorced Catholics find friends in the Church

from their church and friends.
Some seek companionship with others who have undergone the same experience by joining groups sponsored by local parishes, such as Out Lady of Sorrows in Farmington Hills.
The group, which like its counterparts in other parishes draws from Catholic and non-catholics in the area offers if friendship and counseling to persons who are trying to re-adjust to living alone after a marriage or raising a family without the help of a spouse.

"One of the benefits of a group is

that they ware with people with whom they feel at home, "said Sistern Donna Hart who coordinates a gather-ing within the Our Lady of Sorrows

ing within the Our Lady of Sorrows parish.

"When they walk into such a group there is an immediate bond," she said.

Many of the persons joining the group are looking for a friendship or to talk about their situation with others who would understand through

who would understand unougnexperience.
"THERE'S a real need to talk about their situation." said Sr. Donna.
"Some people need specific counseling situations or friends to talk them through a situation," she said.
"They're not looking for big

to understand."

One of the reasons they turn to the parish system in their need for companionship is the feeling of security they receive from the system, according to Sr. Donna.
"They want circumnstances in which they feel compatible." she explained

which they feel compatible." she explained.
"They feel that the parish is secure."
In recent years the Catholic church has helped to create an atmosphere of security for the divorced and seperated.
"The Church has extended itself in education programs," she said.

Part of the educational process has been in reassuring divorced and sepe-rated Catholics that they are still part of their Church.

of their Church.
"Divorced persons are not in a bad light in the Church," she said.
"There's been a lot of misunder-standing that of they're divorced or seperated the Church looked down on them."

ALTHOLIGH the Catholic Church is

ALTHOUGH the Catholic Church is willing to help its divorced members, a more delicate situation exists when those members remarry. "If they remarry without an annulment then they don't fully participate in the sacraments." Sr. Donna explained.

There has been an effort to pull these people back into the Church's influence, recently.

"The Church particularly is concerned about people who feel alienated and on the fringe of society. The Church is trying to extend itself to people who feel alienated.

Among the ways in which the Church has moved toward beliping the divorced and remarried is to make the annulment process easier than in the past. Catholics in some instances can undergo the annulment process within the confines of the discose if the case isn't complicated.

For those who have remarried without receiving an annulment, the

Church is still wary of granting its wholehearted approval but is conceding that there are instances in which a marriage can't survive.

"The Church looks at the individual "The Church looks at the individual situation. Like everyone else in the world its become more conscious of the psychological factors that may have existed to keep the marriage from being a full expression of a marriage." Sr. Donna said.

WHILE the ideal of the permanent marriage remains unaltered, the Church is moving toward a deeper understanding of the sacrament, according to Sr. Donna.

The gifted co-ed

Where does she go? How does she fare?

By BARBARA ARNOLDUSSEN

When she opened the discussion at a recent Front Porch Committe meeting. Mimt Connelly told the audience at the Academy of the Sacred Heart that she was "not a NOW or a 10W, but a WOW." Later, the oblique reference to her own personality if right into the topic as the women discussed gifted women. So little is sentently known with the control of the When she opened the discussion at a

"Do you have a will? Do you have a

"Do you have a will? Do you have a passport? Do you have your own credit rating?" She claimed that there possessions are basic requirements for the mutual realization of feminine value between an adult woman and society.

As the discussion progressed, other speakers added their own observations and hopes for the gifted female. Roeper lower school heladmistress Annemarie Roeper spoke of changes in education and attitude toward the three-to seven-year-old gifted girls she sees at Roeper.

"The activities and expectations presented to her by parents and teachers are different. Now she's allowed to be gifted," said Ms. Roeper.

"IF WE IMPOSE a stereotype of what women can grow into, we make it impossible for them to develop their words." It is a still the said. Though it is particularly necessary for the gifted girl have a freedom of choice, she cautioned that this newly discovered "freedom to find your own direction in life" causes difficulties on two levels.

"For the girl berself, there are no guidelines, no role model that she can pattern herself after. Her mother and teachers are still evolving." When adults face that same freedom, the second level of difficulty occurs.

"Women feel they must face a choice between tooking after children or pursuing their own needs. Some eight year olds have a key and let themselves into an empty house after school." For some women, this is a painful decision-making process.

Andover, chemistry, teacher, Halen, and the school is the school.

Andover chemistry teacher Helen Cost detailed special difficulties faced by gifted teenagers she meets.

"Bright women arrive at the secondary level expecting to continue grow-ing. But, they fear if they are blatantly bright, they may not meet a nice guy," said Ms. Cost.



Even when the gifted female student has the right credentials at graduation she still must face a sexist society. To succeed she will have to demand her rights in addition to learning how to make the satrifices necessary to achieve success. Testing taught experts that when women enter business they do not understand the internal use

"I HESITATE to teach hard-nosed "I HESTITATE to teach nard-nosed achievement because tenage girls are trying to be feminine and refuse to compete with the boys in the class." She credited the Front Porch Committee with broadening her own approach to her young women students.

in many fields." "
Previously, she said she had used this approach only with her male students. Subsequently, she changed her approach when the Front Porch Committee made her realize that young women need the same expectation of achievement to find themselves

acnievement to tird themselves.

Recently, in cooperation with retired teacher Maxine Baurthart, Ms. Cost gave a learning inventory test to 10 gifted female students during which hey measured 127 factors related to learning style. The results showed that all of the students scored as "individualistic" in their approach.

"Successful men score on the other

"Successful men score on the other end of the scale, the associative, work-ing on a teamwork basis," she said. She theorized that "Men have learned on teams to win or lose, either one, without being devastated by the result."

Pat Wozniak, a Roeper School coun-selor, agreed with the observation.

seur, agreed with the observation.

"Girls are not taught to lose. They think of failure as a personal rejection," she said. She encouraged parents and teachers to help their daughters or students to face failure as a part of life.

"IT IS BETTER to say "I tried but I couldn't get into Harvard, 'than to say 'I never applied,' "she said.
Talented hijps school girts "depreciate the label of gifted," said clinical psychologist Joan Chodrokoff. They can be hurt in to many' ways, she said. As a result she found gifted girls progressing through high school at a rate that for them was underachievement in spite of the fact that they might be receiving all A's.
"They could contribute more," she said.
Another of her findings was that the

Another of her findings was that the

most intense pressure to succeed did not come from parents or teachers, but from the glited young woman herself. "The gifted girl pushes herself to fulfill her own internal standards of what she expects," said Ms. Chodorkoff.
"Even if she has the right credentials at the end, she still faces a sexist society. She will have to demand her rights," said Virginia O'Toole Brautiagm of the Oakland Association's education committee.

Picking up the point, management consultant Isabel Smith described the current status of women in business

current status or women in unsubscess and industry.

"The good news is that the media is paying more attention to women in business," she said. "The bad news is that the businessman's consciousness is not yet raised."

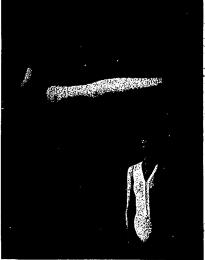
Ms. Smith stated she heard one industrial nersonnel manager say.

Ms. Smith stated she heard one industrial personnel manager say, "I've hired my last woman. The quota is finally filled." The only way to overcome this form of prejudice, she said, will be whert women prove themselves by their own competence.

"WOMEN HAVE TO ask themselves "WOMEN HAVE TO ask themselves whether they want to ridake the sacrifices necessary to achieve success." Men already assume this. They see their work as a game or a battlefield. They are prepared to fight, take risks, and face failure."
Another factor, she said, is that women don't understand the internal use of power within a company. Mimi Connelly agreed.
"Women throw power away because

Conneny agreed.
"Women throw power away because
they don't know they have it," she
said.
As a consequence, said Helen Cost,
"Giving power away allows a woman
to be used. Instead she should be able
to negotiate."

to negotiate."
Approaching it another way, Pat
Wozniak said "Women are still being
told to choose between home or career, as though it has to be an
either-or proposition. But, if you plan-abead, you can have both. You can
take time out to nurture your children
and still have a professional life."
If a woman does take time out from
the work force she should use that
time to become expert at something,
added Ms. Connelly.
Another facet of the discussion dealt



When bright women arrive at the secondary level they expect to continue growing. Once there,

with mid-life career changes and the effect they might have on the home. These can prove a challenge to a mar-riage, Isabel Smith said.

SHE ADVISED that something useful can come from the situation "if you tell your husband that your struggle will permit him to change in a few years if he wants to. Then he need not feel trapped while you are embarking upon a new career."

Peg MacTavish, the associated dean of Maccomb Community College's Warren campus, said she found "the majority of women do not deal with

many fear to show their intelligence and will undermine popularity.

crises by talking the difficulties over with their families. Their thinking is a slow and hard process.

"If they suddenly spring a decision on their husbands," she said, "there is a chance that the marriage might not stand the pressure."

Ms. Wozniak suggested that when a woman has an "identity crisis, don't try to make up for all the lost time at once. Try to approach change gradu-

ally."

Summing up her own expectations, Mimi Connelly said, "I'm going to be 51. I'm just now growing into my skin!"