

Sister Marie is special

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was "chosen" long ago when she opted to become a nun.

"My home is in Flint," she explains. "I was born there and grew up in St. Michael's Parish there."

"When I joined the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I had a good relationship with them already. I liked them." At the time she decided to enter the religious community, there were not too many opportunities for sisters to serve. "We could only be nurses, teachers or secretaries."

"I chose to enter a teaching community."

Sister Marie received a degree at the Monroe, Mich. campus of Marygrove College and an M.A. from the University of Detroit. She did further study at other universities.

When she came to Providence six years ago, she had done a year of training to become a chaplain.

"I had three months at Outer Drive Hospital, three months at Mt. Carmel, and three months at 'Ypsilanti,'" she says.

IN THE six years Sister Marie has been at Providence, the pastoral care department has grown a great deal.

"We've learned to work as a group," she says of herself and her 13 colleagues. "I give and I get support."

Sister's duties are primarily in Seton Center and the emergency room, in cardiac care, and intensive care.

"Meeting patients who have critically traumatic things happen to them and to their families, I become very close to people."

"Relationships are very important in pastoral care."

The chaplains attempt to visit with each patient after they are admitted to the hospital.

"We receive a printout of names each morning, and we try to see each one and maybe do follow-up visits as well," she says.

This year the pastoral care department has addressed themselves to matters important to themselves as a group, Sister Marie explains.

"We've written our policy and procedures for every separate thing we do as a group and that's been exciting. Now we know one another better."

TASKS which are regularly carried out by the chaplains are seeing patients, being mindful of family matters, and deciding which patients to follow up.

"Once a month we hold a memorial service for patients who died in the previous month," Sister Marie says.

"It's an afternoon worship service and family members are invited. They've been congregating in increasing numbers."

The service is composed of prayer times and reflections, with music and a spoken message. "We have refreshments and fellowship afterward," Sister Marie says.

Ecumenical services are also regularly held in the small hospital chapel. Sometimes Sister Marie assists the priest during Mass or assists in distributing communion during Catholic services.

"I'm an eucharistic minister," she says. "I also take communion to patients in my area. I like that time, each afternoon around 3 p.m."

Swimmers are safer now

Southeastern Michigan residents who dip into their local public swimming pool to cool off this summer are safer than in previous years.

Due to recently passed legislation, all lifeguards on duty at public swimming pools in the state are required to be certified in American Red Cross or Michigan Heart Association CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation).

The new law also requires that public swimming pools have a backboard with ties available to transport an injured victim; something not required in the past.

The legislation went into effect July 20, 1983. Pools not meeting the requirements by that date may have been granted an extension for the time it takes to obtain certification for their lifeguards.

MR. AND MRS. JIM ORVIS, she is the former Sarah Horner of Westland, announce the birth of their daughter Elizabeth Marie, born July 26 in St. Mary Hospital, Livonia.

The grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Horner of Northville and the late James and Margaret Elizabeth Orvis of Farmington Hills.

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