

Greeting cards for all seasons

By MARGARET MILLER

creations, you might think she already had her wish.

Cards by the score, for Christmas, New Year's, Easter and many other occasions are lined up there, along with items like informal notes and sets of postcards—all in the distinctive style of this prolific artist.

And all have been turned out in the spare minutes that Sr. Angeline manages to fit into a busy schedule of classes.

SELLING THE CARDS, in a room specifically designated for the purpose and presided over by another Felician nun, Sister M. Gualterba, helps the order raise funds for college-activities.

And because these are numerous, Sr. Angeline became pretty indignant recently when she discovered one of her card messages, lettered in her hand, on a commercial card.

"Sometimes people just steal these designs," she said, "and that is not right. They should pay, and the college could use the payments."

IT WAS SOMEWHAT by accident that Sr. Angeline's card business started 15 years ago.

A member of the Madonna staff since the college's earliest days, she was asked on one occasion to design a thank-you card to be sent out by the Felician order's Provincial Superior.

"People liked them so well that she asked for more," Sr. Angeline remembers, "so I tried some other designs and before long the business was started."

She started with the silk-screen variety of card, using up small stocks of paper left over from projects in the art department. Some of her cards still are made by this process, on a special piece of equipment one of the college workers constructed for her recently.

Others, in larger quantities, are prepared for three-color printing and produced by John Miller Printing Co. in Redford Township.

"They do a good job for me," the artist said.

THOUGH HER CHRISTMAS cards are lovely, they are not Sr. Angeline's favorites nor her best sellers.

The reason is that everybody has cards available at Christmas, but for other holidays she has the market more to herself.

"We sell a great many Easter cards," she said, "because they are harder to find. And New Year's cards are very popular, especially with the teaching nuns who like to use them to write thank-you notes."

Sr. Angeline also designs recovery, birthday, congratulatory and other special occasion cards as well as sets of postcards popular with the younger set.

Her cards have messages with religious significance, but not necessarily preaching Catholicism, she said. "The designs are not realistic—they're more symbolic, the food-for-thought kind of pictures and words."

THE TIME IT TAKES to produce a design varies, she said, explaining that "it depends on whether I'm inspired."

Once inspiration hits, she can turn out a complete card in about seven or eight hours "if free from other work."

That doesn't happen too often, though. Sr. Angeline directs the art department faculty and teaches classes for local teachers and art enthusiasts as well as Madonna students.

She also continues to enlarge her own expertise and currently is adding the study of stained glass methods and design to her skills in drawing, painting, lapidary, woodcarving and calligraphy.

The cards are sold to individual customers who stop by the room near the Madonna art department as well as being mailed out to schools, bookstores and hospitals all over the country.

The sorting, packaging and mailing is handled by Sr. Gualterba with the help of a few volunteers and employees.

The card shop is open from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m. each Monday through Friday. Madonna College is at 3880 Schoolcraft, Livonia.



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