

Inner-city missionary

To her, life means loving and giving

By Steve Barnaby
staff

From the shadowy corners, pairs of brown eyes peek out to greet the lady with auburn hair and gray-green eyes. Looking around, she smiles and a crescent of children's laughing voices respond. They seem to come from everywhere to greet her.

Like magic, the overcrowded four-room tenement with a cold linoleum floor, frayed curtains and walls soiled with hundreds of hand prints is transformed into a warm, comfortable home.

Maureen Dillon, Irish-born daughter of Redford District Court Judge John Dillon, has come to be with people whom she has grown to love over the years — Spanish speaking Americans. The 25-year-old Michigan State graduate has brought her family heritage full circle. Years ago her grandfather lived across the street from the Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic parish where she now works at Junction and Vernor.

In many ways Ms. Dillon maintains the link many suburbanites have with inner-city churches their families once attended.

Coming to Holy Redeemer five months ago, her evangelical work is funded by suburban-based parishes throughout the metropolitan area.

INCLUDED IN THOSE parishes are Farmington Hills Our Lady of Mercy and more of the same at Michigan State. Then one of her dreams was fulfilled — a trip to Mexico when she was a college sophomore.

Another followed after she took a job in Texas working with the Spanish-speaking.

"BELIEVE IT or not, we stayed with an Irish priest named Dillon," she says. And while many persons never quite have gotten used to the idea of com-

fortably mixing with priests and nuns, Ms. Dillon socializes easily. Working with a group of two nuns and six priests, she is the only lay person on Holy Redeemer's evangelical team. "It was new to them. But they are hardworking and dedicated. We all get along well," she says.

"Back in the third grade, I made a bet with my sister that I would be a missionary nun," she laughs. While she lost that youthful wager,

she hasn't any regrets. At one time she had pondered joining the Peace Corps, but she dreaded government bureaucracy.

"I wanted to work in a religious setting. The church has been a big part of my life. I believe in the work they do," she says.

Although she spends many hours working with the parish youth, she also finds time to relax, playing the Spanish guitar, eating at Mexican restaurants,

cross country skiing and, of course, stopping off at the Irish pub.

AS SHE GETS up to leave, one of the nine children run up to give her a hug. "What is that?" asks the little girl pointing to the stick pin on the green sweater.

"It's a shamrock," she answers. Despite the winter chill, a very warm feeling filled the that inner-city tenement.

'I've always been troubled with that attitude which says people are poor because they are lazy.'

— Maureen Dillon



'The church has been a big part of my life.'

— Maureen Dillon



staff photos/RANDY BORST

Visiting the homes of parishioners is part of Maureen Dillon's job. Here, she helps 9-year-old Elisa (left) and 6-year-old Blanca read a book.

INSIDE ANGLES

HAIR DRYERS have another utilitarian purpose in cold weather. They can be used to thaw frozen pipes, says George Brown, Michigan State University agricultural engineer. Are welders are another good source of low voltage electric current but should not be used on copper pipes. They can melt soldered joints and, in doing so, create leaks. Pipes can also be thawed by being wrapped in electrical heat tape and covered with Fiberglas insulation. This method is recommended on copper pipes which are good conductors of electricity but sensitive to high voltage or flame. But be careful, Brown warns. "Most people are trying to thaw pipes under unpleasant conditions and there is a tendency to try to take shortcuts," he says. Fires can start when someone using a soldering or welding torch gets near flammable material in walls. If pipes that need thawing aren't near flammable materials, an open flame is an acceptable remedy. However, Brown advises that weekend handymen and handywomen should have a helper stand by with a fire extinguisher if an open flame is used. The information comes from the MSU Cooperative Extension Service.

TEACHERS OF WRITING classes are invited to attend a conference from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6, at St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake. "Teaching Writing in the 1980s: Responsibility?" is open to high school and college administrators and teachers of any subject requiring writing. A \$10 fee includes a luncheon. The college is located at Commerce and Orchard Lake roads. For further information call 682-0855. Keynote speaker is Thomas Pietras, consultant and part-time instructor at the college. Pietras is also director of the language arts department of Ann Arbor Public Schools. His speech, "Written Literacy: If You're Going to be Responsible, You'd Better be in Charge," will address solutions to writing problems that have been proven effective throughout the United States.

SENIOR CITIZENS who take oil painting classes at the Gaither Place in Mercy Center are exhibiting their work through the end of February in the halls of Farmington Hills City Hall. Teachers of the free classes, held every Wednesday afternoon, are Jo Schmidt and Barbara Tourney. The classes are sponsored in part by the Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Department, and the Farmington Art Foundation, a service arm of the Farmington Arts Club. Money for the classes comes from proceeds from the annual spring exhibit of the

Farmington Arts Club at Mercy Center.

YOUNGSTERS WHO SWIM can attend a free clinic sponsored by the Michigan Stingray Swim Association at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16, in Farmington Harrison High School pool, 29955 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. The class will be conducted by Bob Strube, head coach of the Stingrays and an All-American in butterfly swim events. Exhibitions by state champions as well as beginning competitive swimmers will be featured. Refreshments will be served to participants. Among prizes offered is a month of free swimming lessons with the Stingrays. For more information call Frieda Rudel at 478-6896.

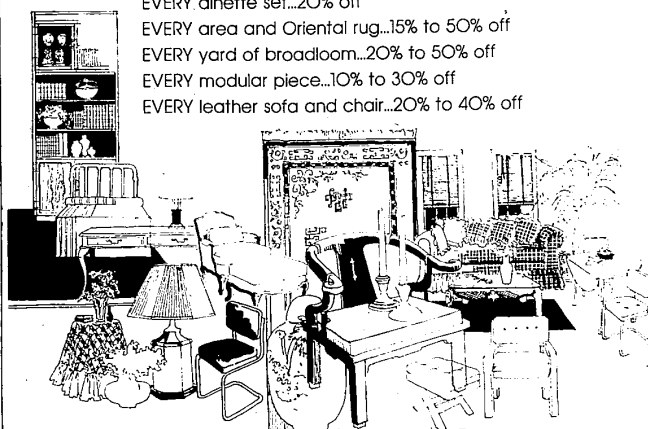
ASTROLOGY MET COSMETOLOGY Friday afternoon at the Ambience Hair Salon when June Lowe, astrologer on WCXI-AM radio, held an autograph reception at the business. The visit was arranged by salon owner Helene Dubuc. It's not known how many of her prognostications were hair-raising.

CARTOONING AND ANIMATION classes are offered for kindergarten through 12th-grade students and youngsters identified as gifted, or academically talented. The classes are taught by James Jerger, a Wixom graphic artist and multimedia expert. He's currently working on his own illustration and cartooning projects while studying motion picture art. In "Animation," for grades seven-12, students actually see how Mickey Mouse was born and trace the history of animation. Projects include cartooning and stop-motion optical art. "Cartooning," for grades three-eight, will stress the drawing of cartoon faces, bodies, expressions and situations as well as caricatures and animated cartoons. "Animation" meets 4:30-6:00 p.m. Thursday, beginning Feb. 4. The two-hour "Cartooning" course meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays beginning Jan. 30. Minimal fees are charged to cover course materials. For more information call 476-9400, ext. 277 or 226. That's all folks!

TO AVOID aggravation at license plate tab time you should know about a new law enacted late last year. When purchasing tabs by mail, persons must include a proof of insurance certificate with the prepared application and personal check. In addition, the law now requires drivers to carry proof of insurance in their cars to produce along with a driver's license and vehicle registration if stopped by a police officer.

Every (and we mean all, any, each, entire) piece of furniture and floor covering is on sale now 10% to 50% off

EVERY sofa...10% to 40% off
EVERY chair and recliner...20% to 40% off
EVERY wall unit and curio...15% to 33% off
EVERY dining room...10% to 50% off
EVERY bedroom and youth grouping...10% to 20% off
EVERY sleep sofa...10% to 30% off
EVERY desk, table, accent piece...10% to 33% off
EVERY genuine brass headboard...20% to 40% off
EVERY dinette set...20% off
EVERY area and Oriental rug...15% to 50% off
EVERY yard of broadloom...20% to 50% off
EVERY modular piece...10% to 30% off
EVERY leather sofa and chair...20% to 40% off



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