

Sister Janice marks Silver Jubilee as a Daughter of Charity

A Catholic nun who believes that all people have the right "to feel good about themselves" was honored recently with a Mass and dinner as she celebrated her Silver Jubilee as a religious.

Sister Janice Dwyer, who heads the Child Protective Services at Marillac Social Center in Chicago, Ill., is a member of the Daughters of Charity, the order founded by St. Louise de Marillac and St. Vincent de Paul.

"I believe that everyone has a right to feel good about themselves," said Sister Dwyer of her work with disturbed families. "Christ has called me to work with people who need to feel good about themselves, but who can't afford to pay for the type of services which can help them to achieve some level of self-esteem."

"I LOVE the Daughters of Charity and I love being a Daughter of Charity, but, believe me, it has not been a bed of roses."

"In our program we witness a great deal of human pain and frustration, and some of it rubs off on those of us who are trying to bring some semblance of Christ's peace and love to disturbed families."

When trying times come she says she thinks of the words of St. Vincent de Paul to some of the first sisters in 1643, "God has chosen you . . . for such a great work."

"I believe the great work God has called me to do is to bring Christ to the very poor, to help bridge the gap between those who have an abundance and those who at times even lack the basic necessities to survive. My vocation as a Daughter of Charity is to make Christ present to the poor."

She grew up in a family where reaching out to the less fortunate was a way of life. All during her growing up years her mother was a volunteer caretaker of the infants who came to live in Sarah Flaher Home.

And among the family and friends



Sister Janice Dwyer

at the mass and dinner were her mother and father, Gertrude and Edward Dwyer of Farmington Hills.

SISTER JANICE grew up here, graduated from Farmington High School in 1960, and has three sisters and a brother who still live in the area. She received her master's degree in social work from University of Michigan.

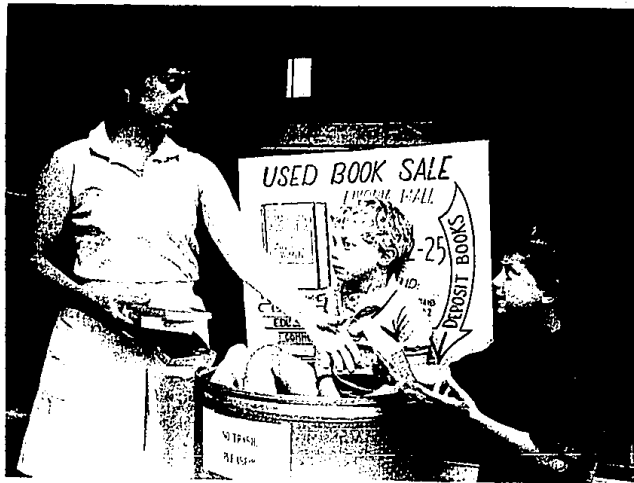
At the time she had no desire to enter a religious order, but says she still "marvels at the ways of the Spirit" which led her to the Daughters of Charity, work with delinquent teenage boys in Michigan, and then to her current involvement with abused children and their disturbed parents in Chicago.

In 1983 the program she put into action at Marillac House, on the city's westside, was the subject of "My Sisters' Keeper," a documentary produced and aired by Chicago's Channel 7. That same year she was recognized with the "Service to Mankind Award."

In 1987 she was selected "Social Worker of the Year" by the National Association of Social Workers in Illinois.

Book barrels filled

The barrels in local supermarkets, used as depalletizers for used books that will go up for sale in Farmington Branch American Association of University Women's annual sale, are filled. They are so filled that Brian Binar was able to comfortably sit atop the one in Kroger's when his mother Mary Ann and brother C.J. were going to add their contributions. The barrels have been removed and the books are being sorted in readiness for the sale Sept. 22-25 in Livonia Mall. Members working toward the fall sale say they are heavy on cookbooks and complete author collections this year.



RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Volunteers needed to complete study on purple martins

Michigan wildlife biologists are looking for more volunteers to help them complete a five-year study of purple martins around the state.

Through the Department of Natural Resources Nongame Wildlife Fund, the Purple Martin Project is being conducted under contract with DNR biologist Dick Wolinski of Dexter.

About 250 residents who have active martin colonies in their areas have reported their observations to Wolinski during the project, now in its third year.

"We have had a tremendous response from our cooperators," Wolinski said, "but information from only those with active colonies doesn't tell the whole story. We need to hear from people who have martin houses and no martins."

In addition to gathering information on arrival and departure dates of the birds and occupancy rates for each colony, Wolinski is trying to learn more about what attracts martins to specific colony sites.

"What we hope to find out is what is different about those sites that have martin populations, those that have never had and those that have had them and lost them over a period of years," he said.

People willing to help can provide the information by filling out a questionnaire provided by the Nongame Wildlife Fund.

"It shouldn't take more than 20 minutes to fill out the card," Wolinski said.

"This information should allow us to characterize colony sites so that we can begin to make specific recommendations to individuals interested in attracting this very beneficial species to their yards. We hope to turn around the apparent decline in purple martin numbers in Michigan."

Those wishing to help in the project should write to Purple Martin Project, c/o Richard Wolinski, 2450 Baker Road, Dexter 48130.

The DNR Wildlife Division has information available on purple martins and construction plans for martin houses. They can be obtained by sending a stamped self-addressed legal size envelope to: DNR Nongame Wildlife Fund, Box 30028, Lansing, MI 48909.

Adult day care offered

Sheltering Arms Adult Day Care Center, a program of Catholic Services of Oakland County, provides dependent older adults the opportunity to participate in stimulating activities while offering their families a needed break from 24 hour caregiving.

The center is in Birmingham, open six days a week, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with contributions based on financial ability.

All residents of the tri-county area, 60 or over, who require special care and attention are eligible for participation. Transportation is available in most areas of Oakland County.

A day at Sheltering Arms includes social and recreational activities for older adults that help stimulate and maintain current mental and physical abilities. Saturday programming usually includes a planned trip to a place of interest in the tri-county area.

Services include health monitoring and education by a full-time nurse, a hot noon meal, nutritious snacks, and counseling for family members when necessary. Sheltering Arms is a viable alternative to nursing home care for many dependent older adults and respite for their caregivers.

Call Anne Lahey for inquiries at 646-1040.

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