



Whispering Nun' at migrant center



Day Care Center located in West Lantana is under the direction of Sister Aquinas, S.S.J., shown extreme left. At left and below teacher aides not only assist the youngsters at meal time but also show them how to use tableware.

LANTANA — Migrant farm workers and hundreds of children call her the Whispering Nun.

She is Sister Mary Aquinas, of the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, and her speech is limited to whispering, since she suffered an operation a few years ago.

Sister Aquinas is director of the Day Care Center for migrants and low income bracket families, on West Lantana Road, several miles west of Lantana. Her charges are aged 2½ to 5 years, and come mostly from the western and rural area of Palm Beach County between West Palm Beach and Boynton Beach.

A graduate of Barry College, her work with these tots became Sister Aquinas' new work for God after the loss of most of her voice prevented the continuation of her career as a teacher in regular parochial schools.

The American Food Co. donated a building for the special little school, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) was persuaded to fund the facility through the Community Action Migrant Program, of Fort Lauderdale.

Funds are also donated by the Archbishop's Charities Drive.

"Our objective," said Sister Aquinas, "is to get these little children into a learning situation...and prepare them for kindergarten and the first grade in the regular schools." "School" begins at 8:15 a.m. with breakfast, followed by a tooth-brushing session, language arts, science and arithmetic.

Gladys Chevalier, 20, a graduate of the special Monday Junior College, who expects to be a specialist in education for teaching such tots, was asked what kind of science and mathematics it is possible to teach such young children. She replied:

"Children love to watch things, and do things themselves. In science, for example, we light candles. Then we cover one with a glass jar and watch the light go out. We show them what happens with magnets flash from bubbles...In arithmetic, we will put down a stick, and

then add a second. Then we count them, and so on."

Other items in a typical day's curricula include a nature walk and a report on what was seen; snack time; supervised play (outside are swings and slides and game equipment to aid coordination—and chicken butts for shade); story time; a period for washing hands; lunch; more brushing of teeth; session on putting away; tidly, the sheets on all the little cots; another snack time, and then departure by bus to their homes. Sometimes, the little school goes on field trips.

To aid Sister Aquinas is a teaching assistant, Mrs. Ullie Mae Jones; three teacher aides, Miss Chevalier, Mrs. Chila (sic) Wertz, and Miss Trudy Lowe; a cook, Mrs. Virginia Hollis, and the bus driver, George Boneta.

Besides "administering" the school from a tiny space in the corner of the building, Sister Aquinas teaches the teachers, and helps individual children. On her way to and from the school, she usually visits parents, and makes time

to visit them also in the weekends and evenings.

She has also certainly imparted the spirit of dedication and love taught by Christ among her small staff. For example: commenting on her charges, young Miss Chevalier said: "These are my children. I love them; I respect them, and I teach them."

Sister Aquinas came to the U.S. from Limerick, Ireland, in 1937. She entered the novitiate of her order at St. Augustine.

Pontiff lauds Pius XII's war record

VATICAN CITY — (NO) — In a homily delivered with emotion and interrupted by applause, Pope Paul VI hailed Pope Pius XII as a "brave champion of justice" during World War II and rejected criticism of Pius XII's wartime record.

In the presence of members of Pius XII's family, the Pacellis, and Church and state dignitaries, Pope Paul com-

memorated the late Pontiff's 100th birthday at a solemn Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Pius XII was born a short walk from St. Peter's in Old Rome on March 2, 1876.

Pope Paul, who worked closely with Pius XII from 1939 to 1954, spoke warmly and with emotion about his years of "humble conversation" with Pope Pacelli.

"Our voice trembles and our heart beats faster as we pay to the paternal memory of Eugenio Pacelli the affectionate enormity of a humble son and the devoted homage of a poor successor," Pope Paul said.

Pope Paul drew applause for rejecting current charges for rejecting current charges that Pope Pius was not forceful enough in condemning nazism and that he was pro-German after his 12 years of Vatican diplomatic service in pre-war Germany.

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