

Sisters common sight on campus

By MARY PRIGEL

"You are my witnesses, my servants whom I have chosen. You are to bring reconciliation. You are to work to achieve unity both of neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God."

Sisters are a common sight on the Avila campus. They can be seen in the classrooms, hallways, administration building and walking outside on the sidewalks. In fact, it is almost impossible to attend a day of classes on campus without seeing a sister. However, because they are a common sight does not mean they are ordinary sisters. After all, they are Sisters of St. Joseph. And as members of that order they have their own history and unique code of central ideas which they follow.

The community of the Sisters of St. Joseph was founded in France in 1650. Father John Peter Medaille began the community, which was an innovation in the church, and started the sisters to work. Helping the poor and sick, and providing education, especially for young girls, filled the sisters' days with hard work.

During the French Revolution, the faith of the sisters was tested as convents were pillaged and sisters dispersed, arrested, and guillotined. But the community's spirit was not extinguished by the revolution, and when France once again became peaceful, the remaining sisters gathered together and continued their work.

A request from the bishop of St. Louis, brought the first Sisters of St. Joseph to American shores. In 1836, they came to open a school for the deaf. The sisters soon made a permanent residence at Carondelet, and from there the congregation grew and spread throughout all of the United States.

Five nuns arrived in Kansas City in 1866 by following the Pacific railway west from St. Louis. They came to staff an elementary school near 11th and Washington. The school was incorporated into St. Teresa Academy in 1867, and many pioneer leaders left their daughters at the academy for education and care while they were on expeditions to the far west.

A move was made for the academy to 56th and Main in 1910. Besides the quality education offered by the sisters at the school, they also opened a hospital and orphanage in other locations during the 1900's. Then still pursuing one of the original reasons for beginning the community in France, education; the sisters opened a junior college, the college of St. Teresa. The college eventually grew into a four-

year educational institution.

As city growth and suburban movement occurred in Kansas City, it was decided to move the college southward. As Sister Rita Flaherty relates, "A site was selected, but the owner refused to sell. At that time Sister Mary Daniel Tammany, President of the college, was a woman of great faith who firmly believed that if she prayed, asking God to persuade the man to change his mind, her prayer would be heard. She prayed — the man agreed to sell. It is reported that on hearing of the transaction, developer Miller Nichols commented, 'It was bought right out from under my nose.' In April, 1961, the 48-acre site was purchased." To build a new identity for the college, along with the new location, the name was changed to Avila. The name honors St. Teresa of Avila, a great woman scholar of the Catholic Church.

Avila is now one of Kansas City's most prominent private colleges.

The Sisters of St. Joseph have not only labored to provide growth of student body and facilities, but also continue to help the college through sponsorship. Supporting or influencing an activity which serves the needs of men, and furthers the goals of the community of sisters is what the Sisters of St. Joseph describe as sponsorship. The sisters at Avila return over half of their yearly salaries to the school, and most importantly they assist in developing the philosophy of the college. The college philosophy, which appears in the school catalog, very closely parallels the goals and objectives of the community of the Sisters of St. Joseph. This close parallel can be seen in this passage from the philosophy of the college, it reads, "As a

community of individuals, Avila provides an atmosphere of faith and support in which each person may gain insight into himself, his relationship with God and his place in service to the world community."

Community is a very important word to the Sisters of St. Joseph. Sister Rita Flaherty explains, "By living together, meeting, and praying together we combine the individual faith and works of the sisters into a community of faith." In the faith community every sister can find the help and encouragement she needs to fulfill God's will, and also find comfort in assisting other sisters to live as God wants them to live. In this way, the sisters experience a continual spiritual growth and a continual calling from God.

Besides the many schools, hospitals, and orphanages the

sisters staff, in Kansas City and around the world, they have a special task — the task of reconciliation. Through loving, dedicated lives the sisters hope to convey the peace and unity with fellow man and with God that is possible.

Sisters work very hard to serve God by serving people, and they are obviously a very common sight on the Avila campus. However, because they are a common sight does not mean they are ordinary sisters. After all, they are Sisters of St. Joseph.

"You are to be a sign of my love for men; you are to go and teach; you are to pray; you are to heal, love, and forgive. You are to empty yourselves so that, filled with my Son's life, you can bring joy, hope and the light of His risen presence to men."

Bits 'n Pieces

Our Newspaper now has a name — EXAMINER. The winning entry was submitted by Mark Lally. He was presented with his World's of Fun tickets.

It was a difficult decision, and we wanted to thank all of you who entered our contest. We were absolutely amazed at the number of entries we had. Forty-one different names were suggested. All were quite good.

The EXAMINER was selected by a majority vote of the news staff. The general consensus was that EXAMINER was a simple, honest, unpretentious name. We felt it represented the ideas and ideals we wanted to stand for.

We would like to extend our sincere apologies to the Mission Club and the Student Union Board. They were left out of last issue's story on clubs and organizations. The Gremlins hiding in the press room must have been responsible.

Seriously, though, they are both very important groups. Clare Johnson is currently president of the Mission Club and Sister Ann Dominic Tassone is faculty advisor.

The Mission Club is the only group on campus that does nothing for their members, they do for others. They strive for an awareness of the Universal brotherhood of man. Their creed says: "As a community of individuals Avila provides an atmosphere of faith and support in which each person may gain insight into himself, his relationship with God and his place in service to the world community."

The Mission Club is currently selling raffle tickets

on a portable TV. They are fifty cents each or three for a dollar.

The Student Union Board plans and coordinates all major programs on campus. These include special events, movies, Student Union Activities, Lectures and Cultural events, live entertainment and publicity.

Student Union Board consists of a chairman, 3 senators and 6 representatives.

The Sociology Club is having their first meeting Oct. 10th at Mrs. Neuman's house. This will be an informal barbecue. All majors are invited to attend.

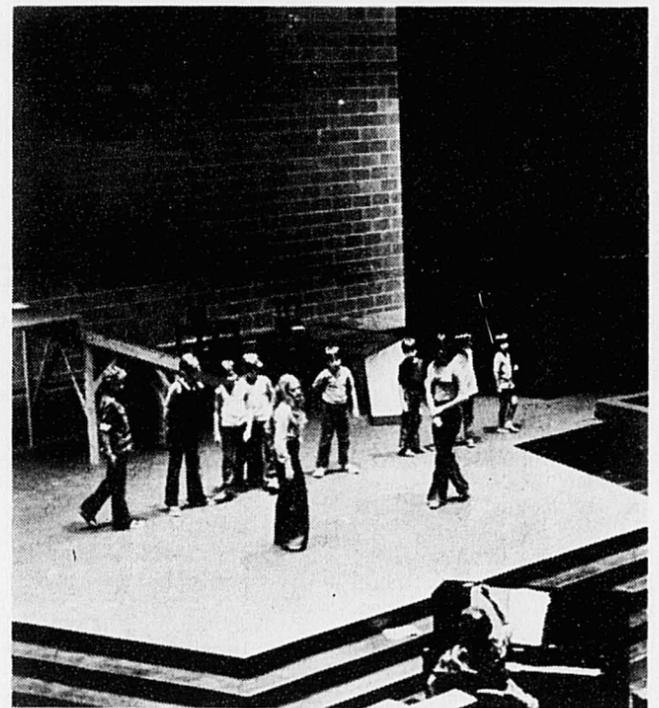
The Scripture and Prayer group will meet every Tuesday night at 8:00 in room 407 in Ridgway Hall.

The Social Work Club is having a garage sale Sept. 30-Oct. 1 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be held at 9511 Grandview. I hear they are selling everything from kittens to tires. It should be interesting.

The movie "The Harrad Experiment" will be shown at 7:00 p.m. in the ALT. This is sponsored by the student Union Board.

There will be a vacancy in the SGA with the resignation of social sciences Senator Ruth Stuckel. If you are a social sciences major and would like to be a senator, please submit your application to the SGA office or John Wagner.

The Search for Christian Maturity will be held Oct. 8, 9, and 10th at St. Elizabeth's Parish. The fee is \$8.00 and reservations may be made through Sister Ruth Stuckel.



Musical version of Peter Pan opens

Avila College will present the musical version of PETER PAN October 7-10 and October 14-17 in the Goppert Theatre. Written as a "children's" show, this musical has much to offer the adult audience as well. Music, dance, and actually flying people in Goppert theatre, combine to make an evening of superb Theatrical entertainment.

Bright, lively costumes and set design add to the sparkle in children's eyes as they watch Peter Pan and his friends travel through the air to Neverland to meet with Captain Hook and Tiger Lily. Tinkerbell stays by their side through all of the adventure.

Director - Choreographer, C. Richard Pond believes that "PETER PAN remains a musical that entertains

children of all ages. Peter will delight you no matter what stage of life you may be in..."

Mr. Pond is well known to this area for his direction of musical theatre each summer with "Theatre Under The Stars" at Loose Park.

A cast of forty-two players fill the Goppert Theatre with fantasy, excitement, and color that children of any age will never forget.

Don't miss PETER PAN at Avila College. Tickets are three dollars for adults and a dollar seventy-five for children and students. Admission is free for Avila Students. Group rates are also available. For information and ticket reservations call 942-8408. See you at Goppert Theatre!!