

# 'Charged Of Charitable Works' Assumption Nursing Sisters Stand 'Trial' As Durham Community Agencies 'Witness'

DURHAM — Maria Immaculata Council of the Knights of Columbus, here, honored the Little Sisters of the Assumption, a home nursing community, during the annual Columbus Day Banquet on the 12th of October attended by religious and civic leaders. The featured speakers acted as "witnesses" during a mock trial of the Little Sisters who were accused of "unceasingly performing charitable works for the community at personal sacrifice to themselves."

"Prosecutor" Thomas D. Dopler called persons to corroborate the "charge." H. C. Cranford, described as the most important man in Durham because of his role as Chairman of the United Fund Campaign, led off by recalling one of nearly one hundred instances of service to the needy of the community by the Sisters.

In that instance, he said that the nursing nuns had provided housekeeping and nursing services to a needy, non-Catholic family for six months. He said they "provided a wonderful service — in the true tradition for the United Fund Campaign 'People Who Need People.'"

George Stockbridge, Executive Secretary of the N.C. Health Planning Council, said the Sisters made it possible for people unable to afford private nurses to receive care at home rather than to use hospital facilities. In this way, he concluded, the Sisters "raised the health quotient by



CATHOLICS OF DURHAM were joined by community service organizations of their city in citing the work to the needy sick by the Little Sisters of the Assumption. The local K of C were host. Principals on the program are: l. to r. Terrance M. McCann, Grand Knight; Sister Christine, Superior of the Assumption Convent and Nick Galifinakis, U.S. Congressman from the Durham district.

several identifiable points in the City." Mrs. Theresa Russell followed with an account of the assistance she personally received from the Sisters.

Richard Booth, of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, sounded a somewhat parochial note when he urged that citizens do everything possible to keep the Religious nurses in the city since Charlotte is the only other city blessed with the nursing order. He commented that Durham, in continual competition with all other cities in the state, can ill-afford to give up any of the assets which distinguish it from its sister cities.

Monsignor James McSweeney, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, commented on the self-sacrificial aspect of the "charge." He mentioned his personal observations of the charitable services, — saying — the Sisters declined the offer of a home to be used for a convent because it was "too luxurious." This building was condemned shortly afterward as below city standards for habitation. After his testimony it was clear that the sisters were guilty of self-sacrifice.

Another member of the clergy, Father Michael Carey, who represented Bishop Vincent S. Waters, then offered to provide a haven in Raleigh for the Sisters if they needed it after the "trial." He also substantiated the

earlier statements made by the monsignor; it became even more obvious at that point that the sisters were "guilty as charged." U.S. Congressman Nick Galifinakis of Durham then described the works of the Little Sisters as being "in the sentiment of the person I love most — my own mother." When the prosecutor rested his case, the defense counsel for the Sisters, Walter Sorgi, realized that the nuns had no defense; in fact, they chose to offer no witnesses to refute the "charge."

Jury Foreman Joseph Blackman summarized the feelings of the jury — and of the one hundred-fifty guests — that the Little Sisters were indeed guilty of personal sacrifice and of charitable acts on the behalf of the dependent in the community. He concluded saying that to call these nuns "Little Sisters" was a misnomer; instead, he argued, that they should be called THE BIG SISTERS OF DURHAM. This comment brought the gathering to its feet for a standing ovation as Sister Christine, Superior, joined Grand Knight Terence M. McCann at the podium.

Sister thanked her friends on behalf of the other "Big Sisters" both for the testimonial dinner and for the ways parish groups and individuals have assisted the nuns in accomplishing their good works. Both the Little Sisters Guild, of which Mrs. Edward Back is president, and the Knights of Columbus received special mention as did the Immaculate Conception Parish and the United Fund. She added that "it is a real pleasure and joy to work in Durham and we hope to stay for many more years in the city."

Following her remarks Sister Christine received a plaque from the Knights of Columbus commemorating the occasion. In keeping with the theme of PATRIOTISM at their annual banquet, the Knights of Columbus mentioned the VALOR of the Community of the Assumption in the inscription on the award to call attention to the fact that the acts of the Little Sisters were clearly "above and beyond" what could reasonably be expected of human beings — even of THE BIG SISTERS OF DURHAM.

## Priests' Council Asks Experiment Projects

PHILADELPHIA — (NC) — The committee on liturgy of the Philadelphia Council of Priests has recommended that a group of priests be selected to engage in authorized liturgical experimentation.

The committee also urged formation of a diocesan committee to visit parishes to assist and encourage implementation of the norms for parish liturgical renewal.

Treating of specific items, the committee noted that, "while the installation of an altar facing the people is not mandatory," it is "so germane to renewal" as to render it highly recommended.

Recommendations from other committees of the council included:

—A review of the concept of an archdiocesan personnel board to consider clergy placement and specialized study programs for priests.

—Area meetings of pastors and curates.

—Delegation of greater responsibility to assistant pastors.

—Establishment of a pastoral advisory committee to consider difficulties and grievances.

—A program of graduated compensation according to seniority for priest-teachers in diocesan high schools.

—Formation of faculty councils for communication among priests on faculties of individual high schools.

—Establishment of a specialized personnel board for priests in education.

The Council of Priests adopted a recommendation that at least one clerical conference annually be called by deaneries or other subdivisions within the archdiocese for consideration of problems more local than those discussed at archdiocesan conferences.

REPAIR SERVICE RUBBER BELTING

**SCHACHNER**  
Leather & Belting Co.  
and  
Charlotte Leather Belting Co. Div.

Box 3205 Ph. 399-5351  
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

VEE BELTS SPINNING APRONS

That boy in a stolen car. Stolen cars have 200 times more accidents. Many fatal. And who steals cars? 64% of people arrested for car theft are under 18. Teen-agers who impulsively take a car for a joyride. And who tempts them? You do. 76% of stolen cars were left unlocked. About half also had ignition keys in them. Maybe your boy doesn't mix with boys who'd steal a car, but he may walk across the street as they skid around the wrong corner.

**Don't help a good boy go bad. Lock your car. Take your keys.**

**MAKE A DATE NOW FOR NEXT YEAR**

**JOIN OUR . . .**

1968 CHRISTMAS SAVINGS CLUB

**JOIN NOW**

Save Each Week	Receive Next Year
\$ 1.00	\$ 50.00
2.00	100.00
3.00	150.00
5.00	250.00
10.00	500.00

**1968 CLUB OPENS MON., NOV. 16, 1967**

What a wonderful feeling! Christmas without money worries! And it's so easy with one of our Christmas Club memberships. Select the membership that best fits your budget. Then save the small amount (an amount you will hardly miss) each week. This time next year, you'll be all set for your Greatest Christmas ever.

Large Enough to Serve You . . .  
Small Enough to Know You . . .

**JOIN TODAY**

**Mechanics & Farmers Bank**  
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION  
RALEIGH—DURHAM—CHARLOTTE