

Dear Sister

Here's the second installment of your Summer '80 "Dust Mop." I'll try to pick up where I left off mopping last week. Let me think. Well, the leadership people--the Trappist monk, the Trappistine (I learned her identity only last week) and all their companions--have departed the campus for diverse destinations. One of their group--a nun in a modified habit--told me that they all were advised not to reveal their identities or occupations. Obviously it was pretty hard for her to conceal her identity. I'm still trying to figure out the rationale behind this advice. But for now back to dust gathering which I can handle.

Elderhostel participants, too, have departed--all 24 of them. Last Friday Sister Margaret Eugene had a farewell evening for them. She awarded them their certificates, and they in turn rewarded her and their teachers each with lovely bouquets of carnations. Sister John Joseph (I told you we couldn't keep her down) entertained at the piano--some Scott Joplin and some old-time pieces requested by the elders. When Sister Margaret Eugene introduced her, Sister John Joseph quipped: "They asked me to entertain the elders tonight. Elders indeed! I'll bet I was here before some of you were born." From then on she could have flubbed every piece. That one remark made her an instant hit. Sister Jane Hassett was also there to see her old teacher, Miss Vander-schmidt receive her certificate and Damien to see her friend from Peoria receive hers.

This afternoon we attended the wake for Sister St. Kevin who died last Friday at Alexian Brothers' hospital. She had been hospitalized for an ulcer and what the doctor later diagnosed as some kind of obstruction. I think all of us who knew her have wonderful memories of Kevin. Can you believe she was 85? While at Nazareth we visited with Lois, Anna Joseph and Consuela among others. Sister Consuela takes her praying for Fontbonne very seriously. Anna Joseph said she felt very good and we agreed she looked very good. Lois was in her usual cheerful spirit and continues to be enthusiastic about her walking therapy. She's learning to walk with a crutch.

Eileen Browne was in intensive care last week at St. Mary's but ^{is} back home again now. Mrs. Arnold remains hospitalized but her condition has improved. Father Tomassiewicz who has been celebrating Mass here this past week told us Saturday morning about his being rushed to the hospital the previous night with what everyone thought to be a heart attack. But later the doctor diagnosed his pain as a gall bladder attack. So he expects to be reporting back to the hospital sometime soon.

We're still in the community room for Mass while Ryan chapel has its walls cleaned. All the pews from Southwest, I'm told, have been assembled in chapel; they're fewer than the older pews which various people now have claimed and removed. As soon as all the cleaning is completed and the pew arrangement finally settled upon ("right now they're being subjected to what C.S. Lewis once called the "liturgical fidget"--you know, whether to arrange them this way or that), we'll probably stake our claims in the new pews.

Not much coming or going these days. Sisters Agatha and Jane Frances are back from the CSJ retreat at MAC. Tomorrow Sister Mary Hugh leaves for KC and a visit with her

sister Liz who's home recuperating from a bad fall, the result of her climbing a ladder to rescue cherries from her bird-ridden cherry tree. Sister Anne Catherine is in for the weekend to keep a doctor's appointment on Monday. I know she would very much appreciate your prayers for her brother-in-law who's back in the hospital. Georgia Therese and her sister Maria were in for a day from KC and plan to return there Monday. They drove Sister Carolyn Bernard's car in from KC. And I don't think I told you that Sister Francina is living with us on 2nd Medaille while she attends summer session.

Almost all last week St. Louis sweltered through ghastly hot temperatures. Yesterday we had a heavy rainstorm; consequently today's temperature is at least bearable. We look for a cool respite soon.

Katie, the lady who cooks our dinner Monday through Friday, has been giving us delicious meals. We continue to take turns by twos for breakfast and Sunday brunch. All in all we're managing beautifully and far more economically.

Last week's opening performance of "The Enchanted Forest" drew a full house. Best of all for me was Bobo with the birthday children. He's a treat to watch. The theatre was comfortably cool and the children reacted with their usual wonder and delight.

And I hope all of you in turn are reacting with wonder and delight to your summer experiences. If I haven't gathered all the dust of the week this time round, I'll pick it up and throw it into next week's "Mop." So good-bye until then.

Love,

Sister Margaret

PS: Sister Ernestine gave the nod of approval to my mop illustration; that's all I need to give me courage to illustrate this week's installment.