

YOUR KINDNESS IN HAVING THIS READ WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED

"Naked and you clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me....."

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

( Matthew 25: 36 and 40 )

Reverend Clergy and Members of the Vestry:

No so many years ago, it was quite common to find family units containing grandparents who were living out their lives in the "old homestead" which was being managed by their children.

Today, family units are more mobile; occupational changes more frequent. And when the grandparents retire, many find themselves living alone in the "old homestead." This home soon becomes unmanageable for them, and they - too, need a lot of care and medical attention. Where do they go ?

Thus, today, the growth of Nursing Homes has become a salvation for these lonely people.

In December 1970, a new and vital ministry came into effect within our Diocese. Father Clarke, Chaplain to Roswell Park Memorial Institute and the Buffalo General Hospital, was asked by our Bishop to act as Co-Ordinator for the Nursing Home Ministry of our Diocese. Since then thirty-five active Lay Readers' have faithfully taken Services on Sundays in most of our major Nursing Homes. Services have even been held all during the summer months. In three years not one single Lay Reader has missed taking his turn with a Service. Services are held twelve months each year. There is now a Priest assigned to each and every Nursing Home to care for the patient's Sacramental life as well.

This ministry has proven itself to be very effective in helping to bring the Church to these Christian people, now retired and no longer active within society. However, this Ministry does not receive any dependable or consistant financial support. For the past three years; it has financially functioned through the blessing of gifts. Although gratefully received, these modest oblations are not adequate.

From time to time needs are made known to us. EG. The elderly and infirm require large print when it comes to the reading of the New Testament or copies of the devotional booklet "Forward Day by Day." Then too, we like to distribute small bedside favors at Christmas time and Easter. Our Lay Readers' also require help financially to purchase sermon material, devotional booklets etc.

( THE BISHOP'S EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THIS LETTER )

Last year we realized the need for a "Prayer Book Service" in large bold print. This was going to prove a costly venture. The total amount required was one thousand, four hundred and seventeen dollars and eighty cents. We stepped forward in faith believing the Holy Spirit would help us in time. There were many many hours spent planning and preparing for the production of this book. A total of fourteen meetings were held and on an average of four hours per meeting at the Diocesan House. Finally we placed our order for the number of books we required for diocesan use. They arrived and so did the bill ! However, in one day we raised almost the entire amount - save two hundred dollars. The book was paid for by the Lay Readers' involved in the Nursing Home Ministry themselves. It was a worthy project but now we need your help as members of the Vestry.

On Saturday evening, February 2nd., 1974 - we plan to sponsor a Dinner and Dance open to the entire Diocesan Family and their friends. It will be held at the "Pellamwood House" 3300 Transit Road., at Clinton, West Seneca, N.Y. All proceeds from this project will be given to the Nursing Home Ministry within our own Diocese in order to better support the elderly and infirm.

We are asking each Parish to act as a "Patron." Will you please help us ? We have at the present no funds of our own. We shall gladly print your Parish's name on the Dinner Menu if you will respond by acting as a Patron.

We invite all members of each Vestry and their spouses; also their friends. As a Committee, may we suggest respectfully that you treat your Clergyman and his wife to this event ? It would be so nice to see and have with us the Clergy of our Diocese. We do sincerely thank you for your kindness in reading this long but important letter. Please send your check to the address listed below in the lower left hand corner. Thank you once again. We remain.

Very sincerely yours,

THE DINNER-DANCE COMMITTEE

NURSING HOME MINISTRY - LAY READERS.

PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO: Mr. Albert L. Knobloch,  
1114 Delaware Avenue,  
Buffalo, New York, 14209.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK OUT TO: " DINNER DANCE-NURSING HOME MINISTRY. "

DINNER DANCE TICKET \$8.00 PER PERSON.

WE RESPECTFULLY SUGGEST EACH MISSION OR CHURCH USE THEIR OWN DISCRETION  
WITH REGARD TO HOW MUCH THEY WILL GIVE TOWARD THIS PROJECT. THANK YOU.