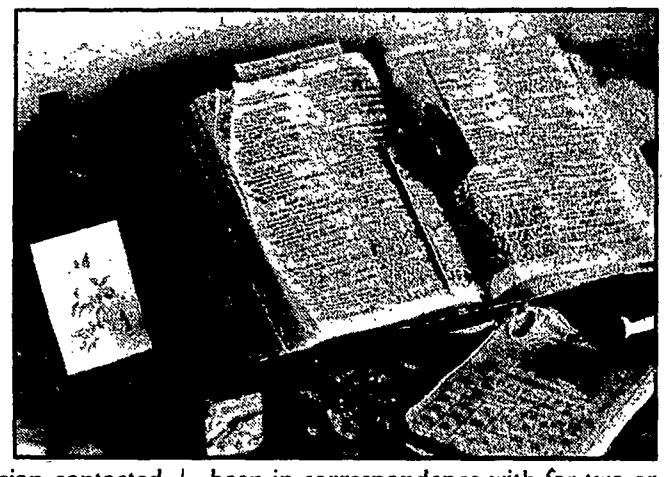
SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Women promote prayers through priests calendar



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Mary Reilich, left, with friend Lee Beaudrault, look over The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests they publish monthly in the *Catholic Courier*. Beaudrault was visiting Reilich at Woodside Manor Nursing Home, Brighton, on March 31. Below is Reilich's Bible on a table near her bed.



By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

BRIGHTON – Few diocesan priests may have met Mary Reilich, but she just may be their best friend.

For several years now, Reilich, 83, has devoted much of her free time to producing "The Monthly Prayer Request For Priests," which appears as a monthly advertisement in the *Catholic Courier*. Her longtime friend Lee Beaudrault, a fellow parishioner at St. Anne Church in Rochester, has been aiding her..

"We are praying for our diocesan priests who all need prayer," Reilich said. "We want to increase vocations. It's something we feel we're doing for our church, for the love of God."

The monthly request consists of a calendar whose dates contain the names of priests – both diocesan and religious order – working in the diocese. The calendar asks readers to offer prayers, Masses, rosaries, fastings, sufferings and other spiritual efforts for the benefit of the priests.

Beaudrault said that each diocesan priest appears on the calendar once every 15 months. Several diocesan priests have contacted her and let her know they appreciate the prayers, both women reported.

"I received a note from one priest with just two words on it: 'It works,'" Reilich remembered.

Beaudrault added that another priest wrote that he had seen his name on the calendar while he was ill.

"He derived some comfort out of that, knowing that we were praying for him at a particular time," she said.

In addition to the priests on the calendar, every first Saturday of the monthly calendar is devoted to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and every first Sunday of the month is devoted to Pope John Paul II, Reilich said.

She added that the calendar has also included dates devoted to all inactive priests, and that All Souls Day – Nov. 2 – is devoted to all deceased priests.

Reilich herself could use a few prayers right now. On Valentine's Day she suffered a heart attack, and on St. Patrick's Day she underwent triple bypass surgery at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. Reilich is currently recovering from her operation at Woodside Manor Nursing Home in Brighton, where she and Beaudrault spoke to the *Courier*.

Reilich, a widow whose husband of 26 years, Charles, passed away in 1979, is recovering well. She hopes to return to her Rochester apartment within three months, she said. However, her health problems have compelled her to turn over production of the prayer request calendar to Beaudrault.

"When I'm better, if I can help Lee I will," Reilich said. "But our roles are reversed."

A Marian devotee, Reilich said she got the idea for the monthly calendar from a woman in Maine she met through a mutual priest friend. The woman told her that similar monthly calendars for priests were being produced throughout the country.

Reilich said that she originally produced several copies of the calendar and sent it out to dozens of people in the diocese interested in praying for priests.

"It was really a kitchen ministry," Reilich recalled. "I had a stack of calendars on my table."

However, producing so many individual calendars became too much of a burden, so she and Beaudrault began thinking about publishing the calendar in the *Courier* where readers could access it. Around the same time they were thinking about this, a local physician contacted Reilich "out of the blue," she said, and said that if she would put the calendar in the *Courier*, he would pay for the cost of placing it. He did so from 1990 to 1997, when he moved. She added that he wished to remain anonymous.

"He remained in the background, just a faithful, faithful person," she said.

When the physician moved, Reilich began soliciting donations from readers. So far, she said, at least 150 people have given money to cover the $295 monthly cost of placing the calendar in the *Courier*.

"We get donations from as much as $300 to $2," she said. "Every single letter or donation gets a reply. Some people I've been in correspondence with for two or three years."

In addition to the calendar in the *Courier*, Reilich said about 50 people on her mailing list receive individual large-print calendars because of their vision problems.

Beaudrault added that she plans to keep up Reilich's work because both women so strongly believe that priests need it.

"They're carrying such a burden," Beaudrault said.

•••

Beaudrault asked that donations for the calendar be sent to a new address: MPRP, 17 Metropolitan Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14620.

One bedroom garden apartments for Senior Citizens



1 bedroom second floor apartments now available
$530.00 per month

- Security
- Independence
- Convenient Location

Currently Accepting Applications

Please call Mr. LeChase at (716) 467-4544

North Village Apartments

2515 Culver Road
(located near the Shire at Culverton)

A QUIET OASIS IN THE HEART OF GREECE



LONG POND APARTMENTS

Walking distance from the largest mall east of the Mississippi, plus churches, restaurants, a senior center, doctors, a hospital, supermarkets, and other amenities in the neighborhood make ours the best location. Larger - Than - Most apartments with expansive grounds & parking make ours the best value. Come see a helpful rental agent today.

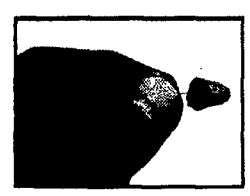


Senior Discounts **225-3510 or 723-9714** *Free Heat & Hot Water*

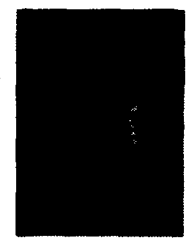
Haven't you suffered from hearing loss long enough?

Now a hearing aid that is so small and easy to use not even your closest friends will know you are wearing it.

- Easily inserted and out of sight
- Volume control automatically adjusts
- New sound processing allows you to hear speech better



with Starkeys



Sequel multi-channel digitally programmable hearing aid.
Call today to schedule a complimentary hearing aid evaluation and demonstration of this new technology.

Park Ridge Hearing Center

227-9920

1561 Long Pond Road • Suite 115 at the Park Ridge Professional Bldg.
220 Alexander Street • Suite 508 at the Genesee Hospital Professional Bldg.