

Sister Patricia Anne Cleary

Daughters of Charity

1968—1970s

In the following year he acquired the services of two Sisters of the Daughters of Charity to work exclusively in Lafayette and Erie. Sister Patricia Anne Cleary agreed to

act as coordinator of all religion classes. Sister Carmen Ptacnik became the parish visitor in both towns, specializing in social work among those who needed help. Together the parishes in Lafayette and Erie purchase a new automobile for the use of the sisters and in its maintenance. The sisters began their work November 1, 1970, commuting between their convent at Precious Blood Parish in Denver and the place of their work.

December 1, 1971, Father Walsh was appointed pastor of Blessed Sacrament in Denver, and the Rev. Kenneth Funk arrived from Steamboat Springs to take his place. Father Martin remained as assistant.

After the school year had been completed the parish councils agreed with the sisters that they were being forced to spend too much of their time commuting, and determined to ask for a third sister so that a convent could be established in Lafayette.

Accordingly, Sister Hermine Reagan was appointed as first superior and arrived in Lafayette September 1, 1971. Sister Hermine had spent her life in the Order as a nurse, superintendent and administrator. She had spent four years in Ecuador as a hospital consultant under the auspices of the U. S. government, but came to Lafayette directly from the Daughters of Charities' Hospital in San Francisco, where she was administrator.

Sister Hermine has been helping the other sisters with the religious education and visiting programs, but has also been active in home nursing and would like eventually to establish a regular home nursing program in conjunction with a medical clinic.

The parish council of Lafayette voted to divert all the bingo proceeds to the support of the sisters, and the Erie Parish Council agreed to assist in operating the bingo games. In October the parish was able to rent a home at 203 West Cleveland, and the sisters were formally established in the home November 1, 1971.

- Served as a Religious Educator in both Immaculate Conception and St. Scholastica Parishes