

## IHMs in Action



Farley Residence Hall is home to 250 young women and their rector, Carrine Etheridge, IHM, at the University of Notre Dame.

For 14 years, Sister Carrine has served as tutor, mentor, counselor, disciplinarian and chaplain. Her unlikely assistant is "Farley," a stray dog who offers comfort and a listening ear to the students.

"Farley is a therapy dog," Sister Carrine laughs. "She never breaks a confidence or offers advice. She's also a very good judge of character. The smart students ask her to meet their dates. If Farley doesn't like the young man, there's

usually a reason - which I hear about later!"

Sister Carrine came to Notre Dame after years of teaching. She completed her Ph.D. in pastoral psychology, but "many of the pastoral ministry jobs involved sitting behind a desk," she says. "I didn't want to do that.

"Being a rector in a university residence hall is different. It's a ministry of hospitality. We live with the students and we keep our doors and hearts open to them."

Sister Carrine loves working with college students. "The students are on the brink," she explains. "They arrive as girls, and they leave as young women with an excellent education, a social conscience and a spirituality that has been fostered for four years at Notre Dame."

She can cite some impressive statistics.

Sunday night liturgies at Farley Hall usually draw 100-125 students. And unlike many other universities, the majority of Notre Dame students still attend church services regularly by the time they graduate.

"Today's young people are known as 'Generation Me,'" notes Sister Carrine. "At Notre Dame, 85 percent of the students perform some kind of service while they're enrolled, and 11 percent of our graduates give an additional year or two of service."

Notre Dame has more than 12,000 students, most of whom live on campus. To make sure no one gets lost in the crowd, each residence hall becomes a small community, and each rector becomes a point-person for community-building.

"We plan a Mass every Sunday evening, as well as liturgies during the week," Sister Carrine says. "We also organize Farley Hall sports, dances or other social events and community-service projects.

"Many of the students haven't lived as part of a 'community,'" she comments. "They haven't had the experience of living, playing, learning and worshipping with others. It's such a privilege for me to be with them as they learn."