

# New convent on cards at 'Mount'

By MIKE DWANE

PLANS have been lodged at City Hall by the Sisters of Mercy for a new convent at Mount St Vincent on O'Connell Avenue.

A spokesperson for the order told the Limerick Chronicle that the plan was to move over 20 nuns at "the Mount" into a more modern building.

"We are building a new convent at the site and it's particularly with members of the community who are getting old in mind," said Sister Helen Keegan, of the Order's South Central Province, which stretches from Kildare to Limerick.

Sister Helen said that while the existing convent was "in reasonably good condition" for a building constructed in the middle of the 19th century, a new building was necessary, particularly for older members.

The site of the proposed development is 2625 square metres in area, bounded to the east by O'Connell Avenue and to the south by Scoil Carmel.

The planning application, which has not yet been vali-



Scoil Carmel convent

dated, has been lodged in the last week for the development of "a one and two-storey convent/residential community building" 1442 square metres in area comprising of 23 bedrooms and commercial facilities.

Plans for a new pedestrian gate in the stone wall at O'Connell Avenue, three

courtyard gardens, the reconfiguration and upgrading of the car park to accommodate seven new spaces are also outlined on the application.

And there will also be a boundary fence for Scoil Carmel, the all-girls' secondary school run by the Sisters of Mercy at the

O'Connell Avenue site.

The history of Mount St Vincent goes back over 150 years, when four sisters moved into a small house on O'Connell Avenue, then Military Road.

Construction of the four storey cut stone convent began in 1851. The convent was originally known as

Mount Kenneth but was duly re-christened as Mount St Vincent as homage to the work of St Vincent de Paul, who, like the Sisters of Mercy, was known for his charitable work with the poor.

A decision on the application is due on October 17 this year.