

Sisters Of Mercy Gear Work To Needs Of Dioceses

"O Lord God, the Giver of good gifts and bountiful Bestower of all blessings, we most fervently implore Thee to bless and sanctify these garments, which thy servants wish to put on as an index to the knowledge of religion, and that they may be known among all other women to be dedicated to Thee."

With these solemn words the Bishop blesses the habit or bridal gown of a Sister of Mercy with which she is clothed on the day of her reception into the Order.

This reception takes place after the candidate has spent a six months postulancy, during which time she has been made acquainted with the basic rules of the novitiate. Under the Mistress of Novices, she studies her own character to discover if she possesses the qualities necessary to enable her, after proper training, to seek profession in the Order of Mercy dedicated to the "service of the poor, sick and ignorant."

Formal Study

During postulancy, the candidate begins her formal studying which will enable her to join the ranks of the teachers in the classroom, the nurses in the hospital or the all important domestics so essential to the proper management of community life. Her hours of study are balanced with time for prayer and recreation.

Besides learning to recite the office of Our Blessed Lady, every postulant learns the art of mental prayer. In her hours before the Blessed Sacrament, she early senses the stress put by the community upon prayers "for our benefactors; the sick; the dying; those whom our Sisters relieve and instruct; parents and relatives of our Sisters in religion; the Pope, the church, the clergy;

those who have asked our prayers."

Following such a prayer-program, the young candidate feels the universality of the church enveloping her as her voice unites with the old members of the community in prayer. She sees how intimately she is united with each member of the family she has left to follow the Master's call.

In every Convent of Mercy the world over, the Sisters of Mercy spend the first Sunday of every month in retreat as a time for a spiritual inventory. These days of spiritual renovation are supplemented by an annual 8 day retreat and another retreat on the last three days of the year.

Novitiate Years

At the conclusion of the days of postulancy, the young novice begins her two-year novitiate training in preparation for her holy profession or the pronouncement of her vows. The first year as a white novice is set aside by Holy Mother Church as a canonical year during which time the formal study program is interrupted so that the novice may begin a more intensive study of religious life proper.

During this period more time is given to prayer and the study of domestic duties. Since the candidate is learning to take her place among the religious women of the community, she must be taught to ply the womanly arts of cooking and sewing. In the second year novitiate, secular studies are once more resumed. By this time, those responsible for the education of the young sister have ascertained her particular aptitudes; and, when possible, special consideration is given any display of talent in mapping out the educational program of each novice. Since

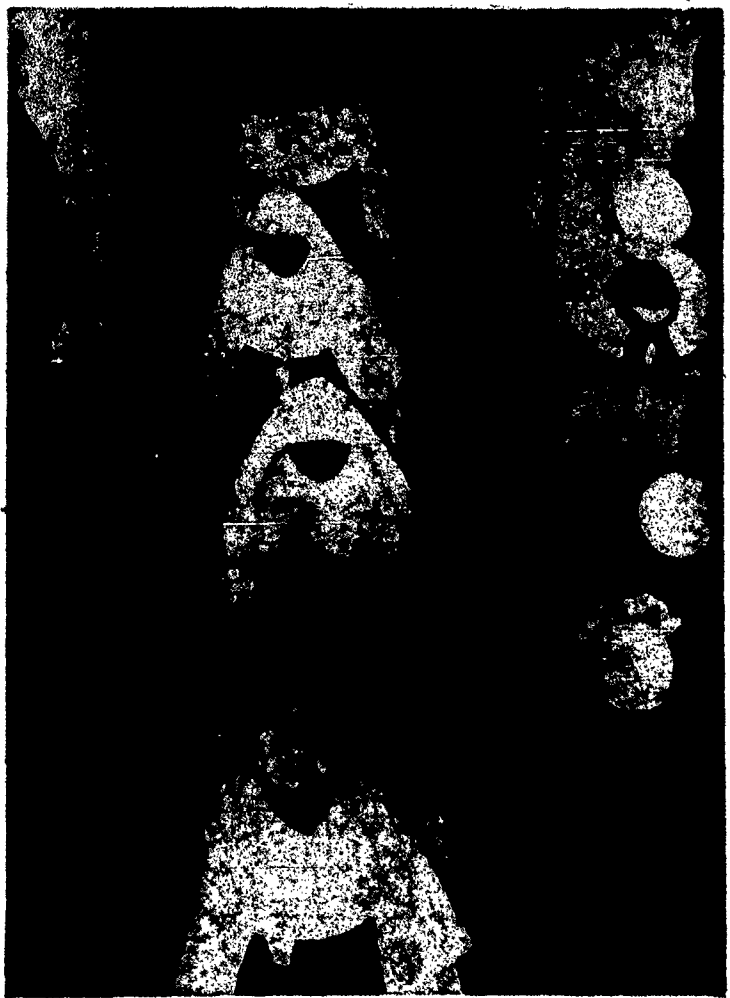
talents of any description are God-given gifts, the administrators of the community are quick to recognize and to utilize the talents of its members to further the cause of Christ.

Takes Vows

After the completion of the white noviceship, the candidate takes temporary vows for three years. At this ceremony the novice receives a black veil upon which the Bishop has called a special blessing invoking God to "sanctify with Thy right hand these coverings of the veil, which for Thy love. . . Thy servants are about to put on their heads; and may they . . . preserve what is mystically signified thereby." At this time she vows to God "poverty, chastity and obedience; and the service of the poor, sick and ignorant." Holy Mother Church, ever the wise and prudent Mother, gives her consecrated virgins another period of testing time, before taking the final step binding them for life to God's service.

On final profession day the silver wedding ring, the outward sign of her heavenly nuptials, is placed upon the Sister's third finger as the Bishop says "Receive, the ring of faith, the seal of the Holy Ghost, that thou mayest be called the spouse of Christ, and, if thou art faithful, be crowned with Him forever." With a jubilant heart, the newly professed sister "speaks my works to the King" for, has she now "chosen Christ." To confirm her promise she prostrates herself while the choir invokes the Holy Spirit to descend upon her so that she may faithfully keep her fifth vow "to persevere to the end of my life."

The Sisters of Mercy, as founded by Mother Mary Catherine McAuley, are diocesan in administrative functions. They



New Mercy Nuns At Reception Rites

help meet the educational and social service needs of the diocese where they are established, being responsible to the Bishop of the locality. The order, while maintaining its original spirit, is at the same time progressive in its work as its holy foundress intended it should be.

Rochester diocese has been served by the Sisters of Mercy during the past nine decades. The poor and sick have felt

their solicitous care while hundreds of children in the elementary and secondary schools have come under their tutelage. Any young girl desirous of consecrating her life to Jesus Christ under the Patronage of Our Blessed Lady in a community living and practicing the works of mercy may contact: Reverend Mother Camilla, R.S.M., Mercy Motherhouse, Blossom Road, Rochester, N. Y.

Mission Fields at Home

The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People are an American Missionary Sisterhood consecrated to the service of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament and dedicated exclusively to the evangelization of the Indian and Colored races. The Sisters engage in every type of missionary activity and can use every talent in Education, Office Work, Household Duties, Home Visitation and Social Welfare.

Their Missions numbering 66 are located in 20 different states from Massachusetts to Louisiana, and from Virginia to California. The Community was founded by Reverend Mother M. Katherine Drusel in 1891 at the invitation of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII. Young women interested in this Eucharistic and Missionary Apostolate are invited to write to

Rev. Mother Superior

SISTERS OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
Cornwells Heights, Pa.

"Repetitio Mater Studiorum est . . ."

Through the centuries since Loyola phrased this dictum, Catholic schools have achieved a world-wide reputation for sturdy teaching and for sure learning. Critics of "repetitio" have failed to understand the spirit of it . . . have failed to see that "repetitio" is essentially "reteaching," not rote drill or mechanical repetition.

It is, we believe, the principle by which meaning and number relationships are taught in *Making Sure of Arithmetic*, by Morton, Gray, Springston, and Schaaf. This 8-grade series, with workbooks and teacher's guides, has been widely (and warmly) welcomed in Catholic schools.

Our authors phrase the principle differently. They put it this way: "Reteaching is the mother of understanding . . . but it results in the same sure success in arithmetic for which Catholic schools have always strived."

Other texts, equally respected in Catholic school circles for their sound teaching and insight into the way children learn, are:

NEW MUSIC HORIZONS (Grades 1-8)

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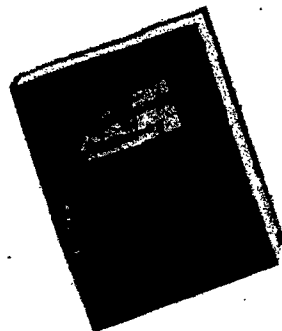
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