

Nuns 'to Follow the Footsteps of Christ'



Mother Agnes Cecilia, superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, confers with Sister Florentine, assistant mother general, as novices approach Cathedral.

This is one of the most heartening and impressive ceremonies you and I have attended in a long time. The beautiful ritual, with all its implications, makes this a moving ceremony; the heartening part of it is that the number of young women receiving the habit of the Sisters of St. Joseph is so large this year that the ceremony has for the first time, been transferred from the Motherhouse Chapel to the Cathedral to accommodate all those who wish to attend it.

The priests and sisters and people of this parish are honored that it is being held here, and we hope that it will become a tradition in years to come. We congratulate you young sisters on reaching the goal you have longed for. And equally sincere congratulations go to your good parents this morning. One wonder what was in their mind and heart as they saw their girl walk down the aisle for the first time as a Sister—and what was in the mind and heart of their daughter herself.

Recently, I read a letter which a postulant sent to her parents at Christmas time. It is authentic and it describes, much better than I could, the love your daughter in religion has for you, her father and mother, and the debt she owes you. This postulant had been sitting in front of the Novitiate Christmas tree and her thoughts traveled to her own home and she began writing: "Dear Mom and Dad: (I'll read only a couple of excerpts from the long letter). I don't get serious with you very often but all the wonderful things that have been happening around here have really set me thinking—so I guess you'll have to put up with my philosophizing for a

page or two (you two are the only ones with enough patience for that). It's not amazing that you had your doubts about letting me follow my heart and enter the convent when my own ideas about religious life were so vague. Now we understand, on both sides, that becoming a sister doesn't mean becoming inhuman or even unnatural. It rather means trying to become a real, human, sympathetic, understanding woman—one who will give her all in the service of her fellowmen—because she is in love with God. I don't need to tell you this, Mom and Dad. I know that you are among the fortunate few who understand, and for this I shall be forever grateful. "I can see now that it was your example that set my desires on this way of life. After watching your selfless love of each other and each one in our family, I couldn't settle for anything less than you did. But, for me, marriage wasn't the answer. God wanted me to share your high ideals, your self-forgetting spirit and your active faith with an even bigger family. "When I look at the Christmas tree in front of me and think that I might have had one of my own, with my own children and husband sitting around it, my heartstrings can't help but feel a little tug, especially when I think of the good times we had together, at home, when all the family gathered in the living room on Christmas morning.

This is the text of the talk by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey at the ceremony in Sacred Heart Cathedral Saturday morning when 43 young women became novices for the Sisters of St. Joseph. "And yet, I really don't desire that—for you have taught me not to limit my giving, and to love God with my whole heart. I'm here in the convent now to give myself to an even bigger family, in little ways, like helping mend my sister's habit, or big ways, like teaching 45 second graders. "These past few months, I realize so much that when you enter a convent, you're not going to give something away from yourself and toward God and His creatures in need. You have found joy, Mom and Dad, in my vocation because of a principle you taught me over and over again as a child: A generous person is always happy."

Her parents could feel really proud of the daughter they gave to God, as you do today of your own daughter. She is here today largely due to your example and the religious spirit in your home—religious vocations usually spring from the home. You have given her to God but after Him, you will always hold first place in her heart and in years to come she will be for you in so many ways, a refuge and a pillar of strength. And for you, my dear Sisters, this is one of the happiest days of your lives. You have realized your ambition and you are where you want to be. You were here just about the right time because you came of age in one of the greatest periods in the history of the Church. The spirit of change and

inner renewal is in the air. We believe it is directed by the Holy Spirit and that the Church, after a brief period of initial confusion and seeming isolation, will be the stronger because of it. How fortunate you are that you will be going out on the firing line in the full vigor of youth to meet the challenge of our times and your vocation! With the impetuosity of youth you would be very willing to step into a classroom tomorrow and get going. If you did, you would be like the foolish virgins described in today's Gospel who did not look ahead. But yours is a special kind of life. You are going to follow the footsteps of Christ, to help immortal souls, to give yourself completely to the service of others. To be effective in later years, to persevere in your vocation, you must first have the proper spiritual, intellectual and professional training.

This means a time and place apart from the active arena. This is why the Sisters of St. Joseph have a Novitiate and a Juniorate. You are now committed to spend two years as novices, followed by five years as Junior Religious before you make your Final Profession. Even though there is great need of your services in the many works of the Sisters of St. Joseph, schools, hospitals, missionary work, offices, kitchens, inner city projects, and so on, it will be several years before you receive your first assignment in the active work of your Congregation.

In the quiet of Nazareth you will receive the provisions for the long journey ahead that will be ended only by eternity. The next step will be that each one of you Sisters must use to the full these provisions according to the grace and talent God has given you. God has a particular work for each of you which no other can do. These years of preparation are the flowering years. The harvest you will reap later on will be on what you do at Nazareth. The heart and spirit you make for yourselves in the novitiate and the juniorate, whether it be strong or slack, enterprising or cowardly, persevering and under people, and you will be happy if you develop the quality of personal warmth in your relationship with others.

Today, you join the ranks of the 178,000 Sisters in our country who pledge their lives by their obedience, their fortitude by their vow of poverty, and their sacred honor by their vow of chastity. You can face the future with complete confidence. God has been good to you. You will know the same happiness and peace that many, many generations of Sisters who have preceded you in centuries past have known because, as it says in the Ritual this morning, "you begin to have in a particular manner, St. Joseph for your father, the most Blessed Virgin for your mother, and Jesus Christ for your spouse." May God bless and keep you,

The central theme of this time of preparation is generosity. You already have this quality, otherwise you wouldn't be here today. Develop it. You are not too young to do big things for God. Sometimes young people think it is too early to do big things, and older people think it's too late. As a result, many big things in life have been left undone. You are beginning your career, as it is said in the time of the great renewal. For you, this consists in being aware of the obligation every religious has to be an apostle, a witness of Jesus Christ. In the classroom, this will mean not only preparing your teaching mate-

rial well, but also see your pupils as creatures with souls that must be loved as Christ loved them, so as to lead them to their perfection both as human beings and as Christians. Outside the classroom, being an apostle means perhaps a conversation with a sick person in the hospital or nursing home or a home in the parish; it means kindness in each contact you have with other sisters, the priests and the laity, kindness to everyone you meet, especially the children; in short, every time it is possible to be a witness to Christ, and in your lifetime you will have countless opportunities.



Students from St. Agnes High School and Nazareth Academy carried nun's garb for novices in Sisters of St. Joseph reception ceremony at Sacred Heart Cathedral Saturday morning.

Forty-three Become Novices

The forty three young nuns who received the religious garb of the Sisters of St. Joseph at Sacred Heart Cathedral Saturday morning were told, "You are not too early to do big things for God."

Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey presided at the rite, said the Mass and gave the sermon. "Sometimes young people think it is too early to do big things, and older people think it's too late. As a result, many big things in life have been left undone," he said.

The young nuns will now begin their two year novitiate as a preparation for their first vows in the order. They were also given their religious names as follows:

Sister Salvi Alphonsus (Margaret Liquori), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Liquori, St. James Parish, Waverly.

Sister Joseph Marie (Joyce Kouck), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kouck, St. Francis of Assisi, Athol Springs, N.Y.

Sister Anita (Karen Lebbon), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lebbon, St. Plus X, Chills.

Sister Jean Michael (Caroline Wallgora), daughter of Mr. Stanley Wallgora and the late Mrs. Stanley Wallgora, Holy Trinity, Foughtkeeps.

Sister Anne Hilary (Anne Emperor), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Emperor, St. Mary of the Lake, Skaneateles.

Sister John Marie (Janet Almetor), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Almetor, St. Cecilia, Sheldon, N.Y.

Sister Sharon Marie (Sharon Kehoe), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Kehoe, Holy Family, Watertown.

Sister Colleen (Colleen Kelly), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kelly, St. Mary's, Elmira.

Sister Frances Richard (Nancy Decker), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Decker, St. Dominic's, Manchester.

Sister Christian (Anne Marvin), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Marvin, St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls.

Sister St. Donatella (Mary Ann Faraone), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Faraone, St. Augustine's, Rochester.

Sister Jeremy (Geraldine Schultz), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Schultz, St. Mary's, Horseheads.

Sister Joan Francis (Doreen Palmieri), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmieri, Mother of Sorrows, Greece.

Sister Marie Lucy (Lucy Fantigrossi), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Fantigrossi, St. Monica's, Rochester.

Sister Ann Edward (Susan Noll), daughter of Mr. Edward Noll and the late Mrs. Edward Noll, St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit.

Sister Eric (Louise Paulsen), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Paulsen, St. Stephen's, Geneva.

Sister Anthony Mary (Rena Contestabile), daughter of Mr. Vincent Contestabile and the late Mrs. Vincent Contestabile, St. Anthony of Padua, Rochester.

Sister Ann Patricia (Carol Langen), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Langen, St. Ambrose, Rochester.

Sister James Margaret (Dorothy Glover), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Glover, St. Plus X, Chills.

Sister Stephen Marie (Susan Jennings), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jennings, St. Alphonsus, Auburn.

Sister Marlene (Mary Kiley), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kiley, St. Andrew, Rochester.

Join Nuns Talk To Seminarists
Poona, India — (RNS) — A group of Jain nuns visited a Roman Catholic seminary for the first time in this country's history to give a talk on their ancient religion founded in the sixth century before Christ. The nuns' visit to the Poona Papal Seminary here was made at the invitation of its rector, Father J. C. Pereira, S.J., to promote better relations between Catholicism and non-Christian religions in India. Following the visit, Father Pereira thanked the nuns and promised to invite more leaders and scholars of other religions. Jainism, second oldest religion in India, was founded by Vardhamana Mahavira (540-470 B.C.) and now is believed to have some 2 million adherents. Motherhouse of the Sangh, the Jain order of monks and nuns, is in Rajastan State.

Facts Sought On Old Fort
London, Ont. — A world-wide search is underway for seveneenth century facts to authenticate the reconstruction of St. Mark's among the Hurons (1639-40) near Midland, Ontario. Sister Thomas Ann (Kathleen Fletcher), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thomas Fletcher, Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton.

Sister Robert Marlen (Susan Schantz), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schantz, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester.

Sister Kathleen Mary (Kathleen Knope), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Knope, Christ the King, Irondequoit.

Sister Paul (Cheryl Ann Lee), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mario Ruggero, St. Patrick's, Rochester.

Sister Thomas Becket (Susan Cuddillo), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Cuddillo, St. Stanislaus, Rochester.

Sister Miguel (Maureen Schneider), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schneider, St. Alphonsus, Auburn.

Sister Peter Eymard (Ruth Anne Dupre), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Dupre, Blessed Sacrament, Rochester.

Sister Marie Kathleen (Kathleen Osburn), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Osburn, St. John the Evangelist, Greece.

Sister Marie Anella (Mary Ann Scollan), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Scollan, St. Mary's, Auburn.

Sister Marie Robert (Della Nicolas), daughter of Mrs. Catherine Nicolas and the late Mr. Robert Nicolas, Blessed Sacrament, Rochester.

Sister Kewnan (Elizabeth Keldorf), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keldorf, Nativity B.V.M., Brockport.

Sister Johna Christian (Sheila Ragan), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Ragan, Holy Cross, Rochester.

Sister Marie Joelle (Mary Wuest), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Wuest, Holy Family, Rochester.

Sister Jeanice (Catherine Casacelli), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Casacelli, St. Ambrose, Rochester.

Sister Jane Ann (Jane Ann Zicari), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Zicari, St. Ambrose, Rochester.

Sister Marie Theresa (Theresa Bigley), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bigley, St. Mary's, Auburn.

Sister Mary William (Ann Greene), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Greene, St. Alphonsus, Auburn.

Sister Michael (Marilyn Stanley), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stanley, Holy Name of Jesus, Greece.

Sister Marie Denise (Loretta Dennis), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dennis, St. Charles Berneuse, Greece.

Sister Elizabeth Anne (Beth LeValley), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence LeValley, St. Mary's, Gasport, N.Y.

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We still let nature make the beer.

what does this mean to you?

it means: you get a beer with a light, clean flavor, because we brew Utica Club from the harvest, with nature's choice whole grains... never any extracts.

it means: you get a naturally lively beer, and it stays that way right to the bottom of the mug, because carbonation is aged in... not pumped in.

it means: you get a light beer that still tastes like beer, because we add a little bit of rice for lightness.

it means: you get a smoother, mellower beer, because we still take the extra time to age Utica Club naturally... for months, not just weeks.

We still let nature make the beer... because that's the way you like it

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