

# 38 Sisters of Mercy Take Vows

This week marked D-Day—a day of decision—for thirty-eight young women of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy as they moved a step up the "religious formation ladder": seventeen of them professing vows "... until death"; twelve renewing their temporary vows for two more years; and nine essaying to live under vow for the first time, for three years.

Mother Mary Bride, Mother General of the Order, and Sister Mary Judith, newly-elected Assistant General, officially witnessed the acts of Profession for the Community at each of the three ceremonies: August 13 (Profession Renewal); August 14 (Final Profession); and August 16 (First Profession).

Following several days of varied forms of renewal—conferences, dialogue, family visits, liturgical celebrations and private prayer—the sisters joyfully proclaimed their desire to live a life of "... poverty, chastity and obedience in the service of the poor, the sick and the ignorant."

Included in the Concelebration of the Eucharistic Banquet (which forms the essence of the Profession Ceremony) were the Reverends Anthony Valente, Our Lady of Mercy Chaplain; Richard Beauchesne, OMI, of Manville, Rhode Island, Retreat Master; Leo Klem, CSB, of St. John Fisher College; Patrick McConville, SSC, Chilean Missionary; Francis Feeney, St. James Parish, Rochester; Cyril Barker, (brother of Sister Mary Simeon), of the Syracuse Diocese; and James Ruddick, SJ, (uncle of Sister Mary Theresa Martin), of the Buffalo Diocese.

## "Both Old and New"

Adhering to the suggestion of the Gospel "... to bring from the storehouse both old and new..." the participants chose to perform the ceremony with both traditional and unprecedented practices. As in the past,

the newly-professed processed in, recited their vows individually at the altar, prostrated before the Christian Community, and accepted the black veil or the ring, symbolizing the change in their status in the Community. Innovations included the sisters families sitting with them in the Chapel, joining in the prayers, the singing and offertory procession; the Professed circling the altar in the Sanctuary at the height of the Service, to exchange the Kiss of Peace, and to receive the Eucharist under both forms.

The Holy Spirit blows the grace of religious vocation where He will. Poet Paul Claudel, referring to this presence of the Holy Spirit in our world, writes: "The trees all over the world are different, but it is the same Wind blowing." Claudel might well be speaking of the varied backgrounds (families, schools, parishes) of these thirty-eight newly-professed sisters, for they represent a wide range of size, numbers, and cultures.

Educationally, this group claim ten different high school almaters; and so far ten different institutions of higher learning. Sister Theresa Martin came all the way from Charlotte, North Carolina; Sister Mary Mark completed an M.A. in History at the University of Rochester before joining the Mercy Community.

At least twenty-four Pastors can boast of at least one vocation among the sisters, but St.

Thomas-the-Apostle leads with the most—five.

Sister Mary Stephanie, the second youngest of twelve children—one of whom is also in religion—comes from the largest family, although five other sisters also grew up with eight or more brothers and sisters. Another six were familiar with religious life from hearing about it from a brother or sister who had already embraced it.

Recognition for personal accomplishment came early to a few of these young women, before they entered the Order: at 16, Sister Mary Georgia was the city's girl swimming champion; Sister Mary Cormac played semi-professional girl's softball; and Sister Mary Giovanni sang and acted in semi-professional theater.

As to their future, several of the younger members of the Community are still full-time students at nearby colleges. About another third of the group will finish studies on a part-time basis while performing other work for the Community—usually teaching in one of the local parochial schools; The rest are full-time teachers, nurses, secretaries, or social workers in the Rochester Diocese. Only one, Sister Mary Thomas More, will journey to Mexico to prepare herself for Missionary Work in Santiago, Chile.

The following Sisters of Mercy professed Perpetual Vows:

Sister Anne Marie (Anne Marie Mathis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mathis, Sr., 30 Lorenzo St., Rochester, N.Y. (Holy Family Parish).

Sister Mary Georgia (Suzanne Jane Seibold, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Seibold, 2407 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Margaret Mary Parish).

Sister Clare Marie (Margaret

Mary Deegan), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Deegan, 50 East Washington St., Hornell, N.Y. (St. Ann's Parish).

Sister Mary Stephanie (Regina A. Wesley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo J. Wesley, 164 Dierdre Dr., Irondequoit, N.Y. (Christ the King Parish).

Sister Mary Marcellinus (Katherine Schwenzler), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Schwenzler, 88 Baker St., Webster, N.Y. (Holy Trinity Parish).

Sister Mary Lucy (Lucy Walawender), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Walawender, Silver St. Rd., R.D. No. 1, Auburn, N.Y. (St. Isaac Joques Parish, Fleming).

Sister Mary Janice (Judith Ann Morgan), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Morgan, 70 Williston Rd., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Charles Borromeo Parish).

Sister Mary Simeon (Mary Cecilia Barker), daughter of Mr. Cyril Barker, 179 Dove St., Rochester, N.Y. (Holy Rosary Parish).

Sister Mary Cormac (Margaret Mary Flynn), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Flynn, 1150 Park Ave., Rochester, N.Y. (St. John the Evangelist Parish).

Sister Mary Sara (Susan B. Phillips), daughter of Mrs. Bernadine Phillips, 46 East Morris St., Bath, N.Y. (St. Ann's Parish, Hornell, N.Y.).

Sister Charles Marie (Mildred Brady), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Brady, 45 Delta Terr., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Thomas the Apostle Parish).

Sister Paul Marie (Patricia Ann Madigan), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Madigan, 275 Clover St., Rochester, N.Y. (St. John the Evangelist Parish).

Sister Mary Joques (Irene M. Hapeman), daughter of Mr. Leon Hapeman, 1008 Maple Dr., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Monica Parish).

Sister Mary LaSalette (Katherine Ambrose), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Ambrose, 24 Highland Rd., Geneseo, N.Y. (St. Charles Borromeo Parish).

Sister Mary Thomas More (Barbara H. McGrath), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McGrath, 21 Parkside Crescent, Rochester, N.Y. (St. Margaret Mary Parish).

Sister Jean Marie (Jean Marie Kearse), daughter of Mr. and



Sister Mary Gretchen, enjoying the new Mercy privilege of a week at home, relaxes a moment from her "cookie-baking" to view some family pictures.



The beautiful campus on Blossom Road provides an appropriate setting for Community "sing", ending a day of pre-Profession renewal.

Mrs. Henry J. Kearse, 109 North Country Club Drive, Rochester, N.Y. (Our Lady of Lourdes).

Sister Mary Alacoque (Rita Sullivan), daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Sullivan (of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish).

Sisters of Mercy who renewed their Temporary Vows for another two years include:

Sister Rose Marie (Joan Gaffney), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Gaffney, 60 Merredith St., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Ambrose Parish).

Sister Mary Rosalita (Mary Louise Herbert), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen J. Herbert, 644 Lakeshore Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Thomas the Apostle Parish).

Sister Mary Anastasia (Judith Ann Maloney), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Maloney, 1722 Kiwanis Rd., Elmira, N.Y. (Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira, N.Y.).

Sister Mary John Fisher (Mary Ann-Binsack), daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. William Binsack, 2016 Titus Ave., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Cecilia's Parish).

Sister Mary Helene (Mary Suzanne Klingler), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Klingler, 302 Pinecrest Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Thomas the Apostle Parish).

Sister Mary Dolores (Marcia Jane Kusse), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Kusse, 677 Hard Rd., Webster, N.Y. (St. Rita's Parish).

Sister Mary Albertus (Jeanette Madalena), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Madalena, 88 Waldo Ave., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Ambrose Parish).

Sister Mary Gretchen (Margaret Mary Roney), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Roney, 80 Hermitage St., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Thomas the Apostle Parish).

Sister Marie Michael (Patricia Noll), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Noll, 6 Lambert Dr., Rochester, N.Y. (Our Lady of Mercy Parish).

Sister Mary Jacob (Janice K. McClellan), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William McClellan, 92 North Ave., Webster, N.Y. (Holy Trinity Parish, Webster).

Sister Mary Christina (Mary Katharine Gilligan), daughter of Mr. Francis J. Gilligan, 61 Elmcroft Rd., Rochester, N.Y. (St. James Parish).

Sister Thomas Mary (Nancy Carol Milliman), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Milliman, Sr., 2129 Norton St., Rochester, N.Y. (St. Cecilia's Parish).

Sister Mary Theresa Martin (Theresa Ann Rutty), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Rutty, 108 Duchess Dr., Horseheads, N.Y. (St. Cecilia's Parish, Elmira, N.Y.).

Sister Mary Giovanni (Phyllis Lee Contestable), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Contestable, 291 Rosedale St., Rochester, N.Y. (Blessed Sacrament Parish).

Sister David Mary (Patricia Ann Cook), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Cook, 110 Sterling St., Corning, N.Y. (St. Vincent de Paul's Parish, Corning).

Sister Stephen Mary (Kathleen Scheg), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Scheg, 586 Latta Road, Rochester, N.Y. (Holy Cross Parish).

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FATHER HEDGES

## Newman Chaplain Listed In First Friday Talk

Father L. John Hedges, Catholic Chaplain to University of Rochester students will address men of the First Friday Luncheon Club, Sept. 1, Chairman Urban G. Kress of the Knights of Columbus sponsoring committee announced today. He will speak at the luncheon starting at 12:10 p.m. in Hotel Sheraton.

SINCE SEPT. 1, 1963, when Father Hedges was appointed full time to the chaplaincy, he has carried on the work at the university where he celebrates Mass each day and conducts courses in Catholic theology, Apologetics, Church History and Philosophy. He has also established a Newman Oratory at 561 Mt. Hope Ave. as a headquarters for Newman movement activities.

When he was assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church, Rochester, Father Hedges was active in the Newman Club program. Then the Catholic students numbered about 225, divided on the

two campuses, men on the river boulevard and women on Prince St. In 1965 the number was about 450 Catholic undergraduates with probably 200 in graduate work.

Father Hedges, a Hornell native, was ordained June 5, 1943. He has served as assistant pastor, in a Catholic Conception Church, Ithaca; Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport and went to St. Mary's in 1951. Eleven of his 12 years there were also spent in the Newman Apostolate.

Father William Donnelly, club moderator and K. of C. Chaplain will present the speaker.

Catholic men, whether affiliated with the knights' organization or not, who receive Communion on the First Friday are welcomed at the luncheon, according to Frederick L. Murphy, co-chairman of the sponsoring committee.

## Mission Appeal Delay Noted

The appeal for support of two Rochester Diocese priests in Bolivia will not be in the mails until next week, Monsignor John F. Duffy announced this week. The diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith said that printing difficulties in Chicago will delay the mailing slightly.

Close to 50,000 Catholics in the Diocese will get the mailed pleas for mission backing. They are subscribers to Mission, the national magazine for the Propagation of the Faith.

The two local priests now serving in Bolivia are Fathers Peter Deckman and Thomas O'Brien.

## The Church in the Inner City

### Four Churches

## An Ecumenical Summer School

One of the most successful ecumenical ventures in Rochester has to be the Neighborhood Interscholarship Program in the city's Edgerton Park area.

Now in its second summer of operation, the program offers a four week religious vacation school, in two hour sessions three days a week.

340 children are enrolled in the current program, which has a total of 128 adults and teenagers on its working staff.

Four churches in the Edgerton Park and Brown Square section cooperate in the venture. Two are Catholic—St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's; two are Protestant—Lake Avenue Baptist and Christ Presbyterian.

ter-Church Program was an outgrowth of meetings of the Northwest Clergy group, which has been meeting since September, 1965.

"Ground for this venture was broken by a joint Scripture study we shared in Lent of 1966," he continued. This led up the ecumenical Easter service of 1966 in the Eastman Theater.

"Our next thought was—how about something for the young-

sters in the summer time?" he added.

Last summer's Bible school was the result, and turned out so well that it was repeated this year.

The current program has three bases. The central site is Lake Avenue Baptist Church; children from that parish and St. Anthony's go there. The pastors of the two parishes are the Rev. Dr. George Hill and Father Nicholas Alletto.

The two other sites are St. Patrick's Church, the pastor of which is Father Frederick L. Walz and Christ Presbyterian Church, pastor of which is the Rev. Robert Boohrer.

Many of the teenagers who serve on the program are veterans of a pioneering Saturday morning dialog session which ran during the past school year. Seminarians from St. Bernard's

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Mrs. Thomas McWhinney and youngsters at Lake Avenue Baptist Church look over picture chart of their "community"—homes, school, churches, stores in their neighborhood.

Themes Are Basic  
"Scripture is our common source book," explained Father James Russell, who is co-director of the school with the Rev. Dr. William R. Nelson. He noted that the themes selected were general enough to touch basic Christian beliefs, without getting into any denominational differences.  
Assistant pastor of St. Anthony's Church, Father Russell said that the Neighborhood In-

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