



Sister Mary Florence, living projection of Mercy's history, checks over the files of her girls, for the last time.

Sister M. Florence - 50 Years of Giving

By Sister Mary Plus, R.S.M.

"Be a teacher!" advises Thomas More, attempting to direct a young friend away from the false glamour of public office in a "Man For All Seasons." "You'd be a fine teacher. Perhaps a great one."

"And," asks the young man, "if I was, who would know it?"

"You, your pupils, your friends, God—not a bad public!"

Unlike the skeptical young man of More's acquaintance, Sister Mary Florence, Principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School, heeded that advice, similarly given to her back in 1916, and now today—called to other duties after 50 years in the profession—her pupils, her pupils, her friends and certainly God—witness to the fact that indeed she has been and is a "great" teacher.

Not a day passes without a letter, a phone call, or a visit from a former pupil, attesting to the fact that lessons were both taught by, and caught from, Sister Mary Florence.

Twelve years at the elementary level, where she taught every grade from 1-8, at Holy Cross, Mt. Carmel, St. Andrew's and St. Mary's Schools, helped immeasurably to equip Sister Mary Florence for teaching and understanding the girls she would meet on the secondary level at Mercy High School.

The number of those girls touched by Sister's influence in her 40-year tenure at Mercy has climbed into the thousands; for in the early days of the school, she was the English and history departments; later, she met every student either in the

Pre-Cana Series Scheduled

A new Pre-Cana series will begin Sunday, Feb. 4, at St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave. according to Father Gerald E. Dunn, director of the Family Life Bureau.

The series will be conducted on the four Sundays of February starting at 3 p.m.

Speaking at the first conference will be Father Walter F. Cushing, who will discuss "God's Plan in Love and Marriage."

On Feb. 11, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gleichau will treat of "The Adjustments in Marriage." Dr. Francis Dobzynski on Feb. 18 will do as his topic, "A Catholic Doctor Looks at Marriage."

Closing the series on Feb. 25 will be Father Dunn who will speak on "Spirituality in Marriage."

Schedules for the series for the remainder of the year may be obtained by writing the Family Life Bureau, 34 Monica St., Rochester, N.Y. 14619.

Inner City Center Needs Cooking and Sewing Instructors

St. Martin de Porres Center has issued an appeal for ladies who can teach afternoon cooking classes at the center located at 537 Clinton Ave. N.

The center wants to offer courses in cooking schools for grammar school youngsters during the hours from 2:30 to 5 p.m.

Interested volunteers should contact Mrs. Gerald McGuire at 296-7185.

library or in senior English class; and after assuming the role of vice-principal in 1948, and principal in 1957, she continued to encounter every student who passed through Mercy's halls, many of whom were the daughters or sisters of former pupils.

Mercy girls who have won an award for perfect attendance in four years of high school bow in deference to Sister Mary Florence's perfect attendance as a teacher: in over half-century, she has never had an absence or tardiness. Aside from attendance at legitimate educational functions, or perhaps a funeral, Sister has faithfully met her "charges" each morning, rain, sleet, or snow, might deter her, from her appointed rounds. And her good health, stamina and indomitable will power continue, she will end her final year of teaching in June with this incomparable achievement intact.

In the 'Wilds' of Brighton

The continued fruitful existence of Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1968, stems significantly from the matchless spirit of her first faculty, not least of whom was Sister Mary Florence.

The "wilds" of the then unsettled township of Brighton presented many challenges: there were no buses to the school; there were not yet set traditions; the equipment was limited, and the faculty numbered five. The sisters in the early days lived on the third floor of that first three-story structure, cooked their meals on a two-burner hot plate, and used their precious evenings and weekends to beautify the grounds, to maintain a spotless building, to gain degrees from nearby universities, and to prepare their daily lessons as well.

Many of the classes, organizations and traditions that were to become the essence of Mercy High School's life were conceived and brought into execution by Sister Mary Florence in those early days from 1928-1932. Out of her English program came a course in journalism and the birth of Mercy's, fine, continually prize-winning publication: the "Quill" (the student newspaper), the "Mercedes" (the literary magazine), the "Cold Frame" (a unique senior poetry anthology), and eventually the "Vignettes" (the senior memory book).

Out of Sister Mary Florence's concern for the poor and the forgotten came an organization—the Catholic Students Mission Crusade—to help the mission and his flock all over the world. It grew rapidly, and Bishop Fulton Sheen himself came to Mercy in 1953 to present the school with a plaque which commended Mercy for being the school in the United States giving the second largest amount of material help to the missions.

Out of her love for reading and books was born a splendid library (which has twice outgrown its housing facilities), and many exceptional English students. Her appointed successor and former pupil, Sister Mary Bryan, says of her: "She was a dynamic, indeed, hypnotizing teacher—a master story teller. In today's vocabulary, she would be termed an 'impact' teacher."

As an administrator, her creative mind and keen vision has easily kept pace with the changing times. In 1964, Sister Mary Florence spearheaded an evaluation

of Mercy by the Middle States Association of which the school is a member. The school received a general rating of "excellent" with special commendation given to areas reflecting extraordinary "vision." These included the Advanced Placement programs in French and English; the equipping of language laboratories; an enriched Modern Mathematics Program; the forward-looking provision for team teaching and independent study. Heading the evaluating committee was Dr. Joseph Seidlin, professor of Education and Department chairman at Alfred University. In his 20 years of evaluating, he said that no one had ever made a better preparation for a committee than Sister Mary Florence had.

Numerous Projects

The Sisters of Mercy have not been unaware of the ability of this talented daughter. Sister Mary Florence was elected to the Congregation's General Council for a six-year period in 1961; she was also at that time appointed Secretary-General of the Order. She continues to serve on the Advisory Board of the Order's St. James Hospital in Hornell. She has been publicly or business chairman of numerous community projects, including the centenary celebration in 1957. She has been largely responsible for accumulating the history of the Congregation and keeping its archives. This latter work she will assume full time when she leaves Mercy High School at the end of the school year in June, 1968.

Any school or industry for that matter, would be proud to have Sister Mary Florence as a member of its staff, for her talents and hobbies are legion. She can sew, she cooks, (her specialty is fudge) and her "green thumb" grows plants and flowers where nature ordinarily would say they just could not grow. She is a competent photographer; an excellent journalist. She recognizes good paint, rugs, and acoustical plaster. She can gift-wrap, type, and stoke a boiler.

Sister Mary Florence is strong and utterly fearless, as one would-be-burglar found out a few years ago. Sister Mary Florence, the chaplain, and two other sisters wrestled him to the floor of the principal's office, and held him until the authorities arrived. As a result, the Brighton Police offered Sister and her cohorts a job on the force.

Open the Doors

Other educators and the Rochester community at large have come to know and respect her, partly through her generous opening of the school's doors to others' use: the Genesee Valley Educational Development Association, the Blackfriars Drama Group, The Desmond Penrose Dance Company, the Shales Organ Company and the New York State Civil Service Testing Program have been among such recipients.

The Sisters of Mercy maintain a file with a small yellow card for each member of the Congregation—a card giving pertinent information about that sister. Attached to Sister Mary Florence's yellow card is a smaller one, certifying that upon her death, her eyes are to be donated to the Rochester eye-bank. This small gesture somehow testifies to the character of this extraordinary woman more than anything anyone might say of her. And in these days of heart transplant, she would undoubtedly offer her heart too. The only thing is—she has already given it.



The files of the guidance office will be left behind, as Sister Mary Bryan prepares to bring her talents, along with a "green thumb", to Mercy's administrative office.

Two New Principals

The end of the school year, June, 1968 will find new heads in two major Catholic High Schools, according to an announcement of the General Council of the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Mary Bryan, will assume the seat to be vacated by Sister Mary Florence, Principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School; and Sister Mary Maureen, current head of the Theology Department at Notre Dame High School in Elmira, will become Vice-principal in charge of the girls at Cardinal-Mooney High School, replacing Sister Mary Edwina. Sister Mary Bryan is currently the head of Mercy's Guidance Department.

Assigned to the post of Community Historian and Archivist, Sister Mary Florence will end her long 40-year career at Mercy High School—20 years of which has been in an administrative capacity. She was a member of the original faculty of five sisters who opened the new school



SISTER MARY EDWINA

on Blossom Road in 1928. Prior to becoming Principal, Sister Mary Florence taught English, History, Journalism, Religion as well as moderating the school's publications and the C.S.M.C. She was the school's first Librarian, and holds a Master's Degree in Library Science from Catholic University as well as an M.A. in History and English from Canisius College in Buffalo.

Herself a veteran Mercy faculty member of almost 20 years, Sister Mary Bryan will begin her new work in June with an unusually good knowledge of the students she will supervise, having headed the Mercy Guidance Department from its infancy.

Sister Mary Bryan is a graduate of Seton Hill College where she majored in Psychology and History. Her early teaching



SISTER MARY MAUREEN

years at Mercy were in the History and Social Studies Department. Having had some experience as a social worker before entering the Congregation, Sister continued her study of Psychology at the University of Rochester and Fordham University, receiving a Masters Degree from the latter in 1959. In addition she has attended workshops and institutes on Alcoholism.

Sister Mary Edwina, first Vice-principal of the relatively new Cardinal Mooney High School, steps out of office in June adhering to a policy of the Holy Cross Brothers, co-founders of the school; namely, that of a six-year tenure for Principals.

As well as co-administering the school, during the past six years, Sister Mary Edwina continued to teach in her major fields of study: Music and French. She also was responsible for the major portion of the school's dramatic work.

Nazareth and Marywood Colleges, DePaul University and the Eastman School of Music claim Sister as an alumnae; and

prepared her for her teaching assignments, first at Mercy, then as itinerant music teacher at St. John-the-Evangelist, Mt. Carmel, St. Andrew's and St. Salome's Grammar Schools; then as Music, French, Dramatic Instructor at Notre Dame High School in her native Elmira, and finally at Cardinal Mooney.

Sister Mary Edwina has traveled abroad, belongs to several professional organizations, and currently is the Secretary of the Rochester Unit of the National Catholic Theatre Conference. Her June assignment had not yet been disclosed.

Like her predecessor, the newly appointed Cardinal Mooney vice-principal Sister Mary Maureen is also a French major, having received her undergraduate degree from Marywood College and St. Bonaventure University, and her Masters Degree

from the University of Montreal in 1945. Further study at the University of Rochester in Linguistics and travel abroad, studying at the French Institut Culturel International (affiliated with the University of Clermont-Ferrand) in Vichy, France have kept her abreast with the times.

Sister spent 20 years of her teaching experience on the faculty of Our Lady of Mercy High School where she was Chairman of the Foreign Language Department and Moderator of the Sodality. In addition to teaching French, she also has taught Latin and Religion throughout most of her career.

Sister Mary Maureen agrees with Sister Mary Bryan about her attitude toward her new position: "The new role of Principal presents a challenge, but I have great faith in the adolescent of today."

Atonement Seminarans To Attend Notre Dame H.S.

The 68 minor seminary students at St. John's Atonement, Montour Falls, will attend the co-educational Notre Dame High School in Elmira, next year on a full-time basis.

The principals of the two schools, in a joint announcement, said they thought the experiment was one of the first of its kind in the country, and "it will probably be closely observed by all those who are responsible for the education and religious formation of minor seminary students."

Father Kevin McMorrow, S.A., and Mercy Sister Mary Declan, pointed out that the boys would combine the usual high school academic program with the community-life-of-their-seminary. They will not be distinguished from the other students by dress, schedule or curriculum.

The Friars of the Atonement are attempting through this change to implement the Vatican II Decree on Priestly Formation, Father McMorrow said.

Many of the seminarans are from the New York metropolitan area, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland. Commenting on this, Sister Mary Declan said:

"Students learn as much from each other as they do from their teachers and the academic environment in which they are placed."

The Montour boys, she added "have an esprit de corps that we have always admired and their diversified backgrounds can help prevent the kind of academic inbreeding that all administrators try to avoid."

Red Cross Seeks Volunteer Clerks

The Red Cross Clerical Service is seeking new volunteers. Mrs. Carlton Myers, Jr., Chairman of clerical service volunteers, says women with and without clerical skills are needed. There is much typing to be done at the Chapter House and women are also needed at the reception desk. Those who are not able to give a few regular hours each week may still help by being "on call" for special mailings and staffing booths.

For more information or an interview appointment, call 454-2400.

Urge Catholic Schools, CCD To Plan Together

The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine directors of New York State have urged the state's bishops to foster a program of joint research between the Catholic schools and the CCP in the area of religious education.

The resolution was presented at the New York State Province meeting of CCD directors held recently at Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Other resolutions passed were:

- that the state Catholic school superintendents and CCD

directors get together for discussion on areas of mutual concern.

- that the CCD, together with other agencies, attempt to improve the quality of religious education to the physically and mentally handicapped;

- that programs be undertaken to provide uniform state-wide CCD teacher training;

- that efforts be renewed to urge the Board of Education in Albany to enlarge the concepts of the Release time laws in order that the program be made more viable.

SPECIAL FEATURE

Sunday Feb. 4 thru Friday Feb. 9

SHRIMP & STEAK

Combination Dinner

\$3.65

SERVED ANYTIME

Sun., Feb. 4 thru Fri., Feb. 9

For Your Listening And Dancing Pleasure

JOE CADY'S

TRIPLE ORCHESTRA

Playing Nightly
9:30 P.M. 'til 1:30 A.M.

Now Playing

The Fabulous BILL GRAHAM

Tuesday thru Sunday
In Our Cocktail Lounge

Rund's

"the house of good food"

2851 West Henrietta Road

FOR RESERVATIONS
Phone 473-3891

CLOSED MONDAYS