

Sisters of Mercy Vows... A New Spirit Prevails

By SISTER MARY PIUS
Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse

The "new look" in the formation program of the Sisters of Mercy was evidenced this week in ceremonies that accompanied the final profession of vows for 24 young women, and the receiving of the Mercy habit by 11 postulants.

For the first time, each Sister dedicating her life to God in the Mercy Congregation had the privilege of choosing her own date and place for the ceremony of profession as well as choosing the wording of her own vow formula.

"In so doing," Sister Mary Judith, director of the Temporary Professional Program, explained, "the Sisters hope to achieve an increased individual responsibility as well as a fully meaningful and liturgical celebration of the Profession ceremony."

Seven of the group proclaimed their intention of observing the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in the service of the poor, sick and ignorant at the Motherhouse Chapel on June 2.

The remaining seven on other dates chose the sites of their current apostolate to celebrate with "their parish or school family" this solemn event.

Gone from both ceremonies was the more formal ritual of other years such as the somewhat archaic language, and the formerly traditional act of prostration on the chapel floor.

Present was a new, more joyous spirit of participation by both the Mercy community and the Sisters' families. There was a marked contrast, too, between the "hesitant" attitude of the newly received, and the deeper, permanent attitude of the finally professed.

Sister Katharine Donner's profession at St. Louis Church, where she teaches in the parish school rather than in the changing picture of religious profession ceremonies, and reflects the scenes being enacted simultaneously elsewhere by her fellow Sisters.

Her vows were received formally by the pastor, the Rev. John Reddington, and were witnessed by her current superior, St. Louis principal, Sister Mary Rita, and her formation director, Sister Mary Judith.

Preceding the regular parish 5 p.m. Mass, Sister Mary Rita explained to the gathered family, friends and parishioners what was about to happen. During the procession the St. Louis girls' choir led the congregation in singing the first of the several hymns Sister Katharine herself had chosen.

After the Service of the



Sister Marie Louise Blaakman, one of the newly professed, enjoys the company of children at her part-time apostolate on Joseph Avenue, Rochester.

Word, at which Sister Katharine's brother read the Epistle, she mounted the steps of the altar with the two Mercy Community witnesses, pronounced her vows, and received from Father Reddington the seal of her intent, a silver ring bearing the inscription: "That God May Fill the Earth."

The simple wording of Sister's promise gave deeper understanding of her act, not only to herself, but also to the assembled congregation, many of whom were weeping.

She said in part "... I want to tell you I love you (God) most, and prove it by pronouncing vows so that demands won't keep me away of loving you ..."

In the homily which followed, Father Reddington spoke for his people, who rejoiced that Sister had chosen to say her vows in the presence of her parish family. He went on to show how Sister Katharine Donner had

lived Christ's words: "Greater love than this no man has, that he lay down his life for his friend." By foregoing the human happiness of married life, he said, she can give all her love and service to her fellow man.

Six close friends in the



Sister Marietta, director of the novices of the Sisters of Mercy.

Mercy Community spoke the prayers of the faithful. Her own mother led three other members of the Donner family to the altar with the gifts of bread and wine.

At Communion time The Kiss of Peace was exchanged throughout the congregation. Sister Katharine received Communion under both species, and after the final blessing, walked beaming from the church to the parish hall to receive some 150 family and friends who had come to celebrate with her.

Sister Katharine Donner (who had been known for seven years as Sister Mary Kai) returned to her baptismal name during the ceremony. This is an innovation among the Sisters of Mercy this year—and is voluntary. More than half of the Congregation have manifested an intent to return to their family name.

Sister Mary Katharine Donner summarized her feelings on profession day—a feeling that seems to be universally shared by the other newly professed:

"I believe there is a vital place in the Church for Christian women to witness to 'community' life. The Spirit resides in communities of any type, and I personally feel this style of community is where I hear God's Word most clearly and where I respond most effectively.

"Serving the Church can be done in other ways, perhaps more dramatic ways, but each must follow his own calling. In a sense I have a double calling: dedication to the Church through this Community."

Eleven Mercy postulants quietly received the habit of the Sisters of Mercy at the regular Community Mass June 9 at the Motherhouse, the habits having been blessed the evening before at a Scripture Service. That Sunday afternoon their parents joined them in a Eucharist Celebration, followed by dinner with the community in the refectory.

These two groups of sisters, as well as the other novices and temporary professed, who, during the summer, will renew their vows, or pronounce temporary vows for the first time, have been the recipients of an experimental—rapidly expanding and changing sister formation program—under the direction of Mercy Council member, Sister Mary de Pazzi.

Working with her is the Community's vocational director, Sister Mary Peter, and the four directors of the

young sisters: Sister Mary Majella (postulants); Sister Marietta (novices); Sister Mary Stanislaus and Sister Mary Judith (temporary professed.)

Other Mercy Sisters making final vows this year are Jeanne Marie Collins (Sister Mary Carolyn), Susan Mary Altpeter (Sister Maris Stella), Marie Louise Blaakman (Sister Marie Louise), Mary Jo

Brennan (Sister Gilmary), Marilyn Waddell (Sister Mary Pacelli), Mary Austin (Sister Mary Anne Joachim), Marcial Farrell (Sister Mary Marcia), Edna Prizzing (Sister Mary Corda), Georgia Seibold (Sister Alicia), Patricia Spelman (Sister Mary Emeric), Martha S. Doell (Sister Mary Martha), Gloria Ruocco (Sister Mary Peter Claver), Kathleen Cloke (Sister Mary Anthony), and Sister Mary Lenore.

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How

Campus unrest this year has covered subjects from war and draft to student power and racial equality. Colleges of all sizes and in all sections of the nation have been shaken by movements of renewal and reform even where protest and revolution have not made headlines. Campus religious life has also been changing.

What has happened to religious practice on a major Catholic campus is reported in the following article about the University of Notre Dame published in the Notre Dame Alumnus, March-April, 1968.

"What has happened to religion on campus?" Alumni ask that question in a recent issue of the magazine.

With equal verve students reply: "It's dead!" And they add, "It's not so much the Catholic religion anymore as it is Christianity."

The answer stuns Notre Dame parents and grads. And the Gulf of understanding widens still further because the point in question is that aspect of a Notre Dame education which has meant most to Alumni. But religion also has great meaning in the lives of today's students. The understanding, interpretator and practice of what Alumni and students consider "religion" are at opposite ends of the pew.

"The difference is simple," notes Rev. Louis Putz CSC rector of Moreau Seminary who has been a hall rector and professor of theology at Notre Dame since 1939.

"Notre Dame in years past reflected the attitudes and practices of the pre-conciliar Church. Now we're living in the post-conciliar era and emphasis has switched from 'no-no' attitude to a 'go-go' mandate.

Benedict

Elmira—The Abbot Prims of the world-wide Benedictine Confederation, the Most Rev. Rembert Weakland, O.S.B., visiting Mount Saviour Monastery, at Pine City this week.

Abbot Rembert, formerly St. Vincent's Archabbot, I trobe, Pa., was elected by Benedictine superiors in Rome last September to head the international Confederation for six-year term. He is the first American to hold this office.

Abbot Rembert is in the United States for six weeks visit Benedictine communities. He resides in Rome, where he is Abbot-Chancellor of the International College at Sant'Elmo.

Recently Pope Paul VI pointed him to the Council for the implementation of the Constitution on the Liturgy the Second Vatican Council, an expert on church music and before his election as Abbot Primate was chairman of U.S. Bishops' Commission the Liturgy.

The Benedictine Confederation which Abbot Rembert heads is composed of 18 national or international federations. Abbot Rembert represents these federations to the Holy See, and serves as a coordinator of communication between them. His responsibility covers 12,000 Benedictine fathers, brothers who live in 200 monasteries and 23,000 Benedictine sisters and nuns in 400 convents. Mount Saviour is one of the two dozen monasteries in the United States.

Disciples Church Gets Record Gift

Dallas.—(RNS)—A local insurance executive and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore P. Beyer, have presented gifts totaling \$3 million to institution the Christian Churches (Disciples Church).

It was the largest group gifts ever made at one time Disciples causes. All but \$500,000 was designated for material education.

Five Sen

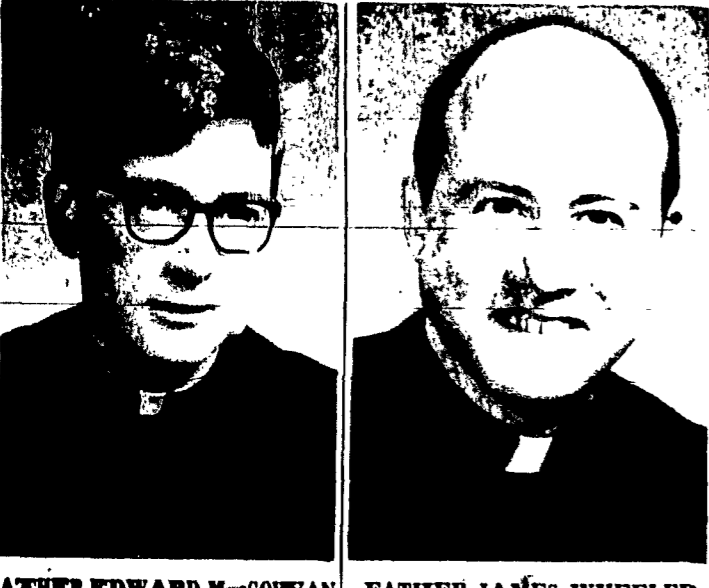
Baltimore.—(NC)—Sweet changes in the current inquiry system and the immediate establishment of five large experimental ecumenical theological centers at a cost of \$250 million to the Catholic Church have been recommended by a group of seminar at St. Mary's Seminary, here.

The recommendations outlined in a 15-page open letter to all of the bishops in the United States.

The students told the bishop that "seminary education is in crisis"; many of those leaving seminaries are going solo because of the "inability to tolerate" system any longer; and those remaining "are being inadequately trained and insufficiently prepared for the ministry."

Cited as the major problem of the seminary system were:

- Diffusion of resources



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First Mass Planned

Two former teachers of McQuaid Jesuit High School, Edward J. McGowan, S.J. and James J. Wheeler, S.J., will return to Rochester to celebrate a First Mass on Sunday, June 23 at 12 p.m. in the School Chapel of McQuaid Jesuit. Father Albert P. Bartlett, S.J., will preach the sermon.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1. Shale
2. Fashion
3. Boat
4. Across
5. Pelt
6. Diminishes, as the moon
7. By
8. Twins
9. Compass point
10. Apportion
11. Shear
12. Epochs
13. Club's rules
14. Showman
15. Lamprey
16. Russian labor associations
17. Seaweed
18. Bean
19. Indian peasant
20. Entire
21. Exclamation
22. Profundus
23. Siani
24. Sets of nested boxes
25. Ebb
26. Tributary
27. Barge
28. Colors
29. Observed

DOWN

1. Terrier or cat, for instance
2. Biblical name
3. Vowel
4. Resounding
5. Pertly
6. Arranged
7. Summative
8. Urniferous
9. Revolved
10. Benevolent
11. This time
12. Orchard
13. Identical
14. Lizard
15. Spawners
16. Redundancy
17. Peepers
18. Kind of sale
19. Addition
20. Duck genus
21. Revolved
22. Body of water
23. Oriental warehouse
24. Sweetshop
25. Sibilant sound
26. End of anchor bit
27. Bitter vetch
28. Spawners of fish

Seminar Scheduled For Musicians

A seminar for church musicians and others interested in music for the modern Church will be held Aug. 5, 6 and 7 at College Misericordia at Dallas, Pa. Any person, clerical, religious or lay, may attend.

The workshop is sponsored by the Gregorian Institute of America, which has brought to the seminar a faculty of distinguished musicians.

Choral repertoire and techniques will be studied under Paul Salamunovich, who has trained many choruses for appearances at the Hollywood Bowl. John Grady, organist of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, will stress liturgical organ style and parish organ playing. Pastor Daniel Reuning, liturgical consultant, chanting instructor, choral conductor, professor of liturgy and music at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., will emphasize diction and congregational singing.

The place of music in Eucharistic celebrations, placing the proper emphasis on various parts of the Mass through the choir and the church musician as a liturgist as well as the people's part will be studied under the direction of Father Gonzaga Sweeney, T.O.R., liturgist at St. Francis Seminary, Loretto, Pa.

The seminar bulletin may be obtained from the Gregorian Institute of America, 2115 W. 63rd St., Chicago, Ill. 60636.

Nazareth Faculty Member Heads Reading Assn.

Sister Madeline Therese, SSJ, associate professor of Education at Nazareth College, has been named president of the Rochester Chapter of the International Reading Association.

The new head of the organization holds a BE from the State University of New York at Brockport and a MEd. from the University of Rochester.

The Courier-Journal welcomes your Letters to the Editor. Brevity, however, is essential, with 300 words the maximum length.

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