

Religious Communities of Women Serve

Work to Continue on Multitude of Fronts in Diocese

By SISTER DORIS HAMILTON, R.S.M., Cardinal Mooney High School

Nineteen religious communities of women, comprised of teachers, nurses, contemplatives, and social workers, have traveled through the first hundred years' history of the Diocese of Rochester, giving their spirit to classrooms, hospital wards, cloisters, and inner-city streets.

Their Sisters, strong in tradition and renewed by Vatican II, show promise of continued dedication in the next century.

First to arrive in Rochester, in its pre-diocesan days, were the *Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent dePaul* who, in 1845, came to the city to accept St. Patrick's Orphanage as a mission. These four Sisters were not only the first to come to the Rochester area but were also the first Catholic nuns in all of western New York.

Today, these Sisters of Charity are engaged in the administration of St. Mary's Hospital, a work which they undertook in 1863.

When asked what future

years might hold for the Charity Sisters in this diocese, Sister Margaret, Administrator of St. Mary's Hospital commented, "Our apostolate in future years in the diocese will most likely remain in the field of hospital work. Because of the location of our hospital, and also because of the needs of the community, our health program may possibly be expanded to include such fields as the operation of inner city clinics".

Two religious congregations who were to become prominent educators in the diocese sent their first groups to Rochester in 1854.

The *School Sisters of Notre Dame* came to the diocese to undertake their work of educating the poor and underprivileged, a work which they have continued to the present. What will future years bring with regard to these Sisters' work in the diocese?

Sister Beatrice, the School Sisters' Notre Dame Educational Coordinator in the Cath-



Sisters of St. Joseph show variety of habits being worn experimentally in their community's renewal program.

olic Education Office, predicts, "Our order will probably basically remain a teaching order. This does not mean that some of our Sisters will not be involved in other works. But the Sisters of Notre Dame are, I believe, generally convinced that even though the type of educational needs in the diocese may differ in the years to come, the field of education will still remain the most important factor in bringing about social change.

"We have since our arrival in the diocese, worked mainly with the poor and underprivileged, an apostolate for which our congregation was founded. Our Sisters feel that this apostolate is a truly worthy one and will continue to be so during the next chapter in Rochester diocesan history."

Canandaigua, in 1854, was the location of the first foundation of the *Sisters of St. Joseph*, from Carondelet, Missouri, to Mother Agnes Spencer, came

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make your move to the 'now' sound

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A. J. McMullen
President

Garlock

November 15, 1968

Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, Ph.D., D.D.
50 Chestnut Street
Rochester, New York 14604

Your Excellency:

The employees and officers of Garlock Inc. join me in extending congratulations and best wishes to all members of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

The 100th Anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester marks the completion of a century of service and accomplishment. We share your pride and joy.

Very truly yours,

A. J. McMullen

A. J. McMullen

AJM:s

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