



The most recent and final class at St. Mary's which graduated last Sunday.



Remember Them?

St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing graduated these young nurses 62 years ago. At the time, June, 1909, their names were listed as: "L. McDonald, F. Hano, E. Barry, G. Middleton, L. Prefice, L. Sullivan, H. Gaffney, M. Cunningham, R. Kelly, B. Walters".

For St. Mary's... the Last Class

St. Mary's Hospital graduated its last nursing class Sunday in order to bring its nursing education to more students.

Miss Virginia Krenzer, the school's director of nursing, explained the paradox. In closing, St. Mary's faculty of 10 will be free to teach in the nursing programs offered by Monroe Community and Brockport State colleges, the University of Rochester, and Roberts Wesleyan, thus reaching more nurses than the 34 seniors they now instruct.

St. Mary's provides "on the job" training for student nurses at area colleges which lack hospital facilities. When its own nursing school closes, the hospital will be able to accommodate more students making maximum use of its clinical teaching facilities.

Miss Krenzer said that the decision to close the school of

nursing, made in 1968, when the class of 1971 began the three-year nursing program also was made in the light of new trends in education for nurses. "We live in a college-bound society," she observed.

"In New York State, fewer girls apply to nursing schools. They opt, instead, to attend a junior or senior college which offers a degree nursing program."

Miss Krenzer compared the period of transition facing nursing to the one which marked the progression of teacher training from certification by normal schools to completion of a degree program at a college. Nursing, like teaching, is now "entering the mainstream of education."

Since its founding in 1892, St. Mary Nursing School has educated almost 2,000 nurses. Two 1969 graduates, Jacqueline

Navarra and Sandra Peterson, serve with the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam; another graduate, Sister Christel Burgmaier, SSJ, is a missionary in South America.

Miss Krenzer admits that alumnae feel an "emotional twinge" at the thought of the school's closing.

Mrs. Gerard (Patricia) Grassi, a 1957 graduate of St. Mary's and president of its alumnae association, commented that most alumnae, although supporting the administration's decision, are "very sorry that it's closing."

Miss Joan Carr, a 1958 graduate and presently on St. Mary's nursing faculty, said that she had "double feelings" about the closing.

"As an alumna, I'm saddened, but as a faculty member I know that phasing out the school will be the best way to accomplish what St. Marys has always aimed for—to give the best education to nurses. Right now, a college atmosphere would provide the best nursing education."

The last class of St. Mary's has blended the old with the new in graduation rites. The baccalaureate mass was contemporary but the students asked to be "capped" by the heads of the school, a ceremony which dates back to St. Mary's early days.

Ordination June 12 For Peter T. Bayer

The Rev. Mr. Peter T. Bayer of the diocesan Office of Human Development will be ordained to the priesthood Saturday afternoon, June 12.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will confer the sacrament at a 3 p.m. Mass at Corpus Christi Church, and Father Bayer will celebrate his first Mass there at 2 p.m. the next day, the feast of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. His friends are invited to both liturgies and to a reception from 7 until 9:30 p.m. Sunday in the Corpus Christi school hall.

Father Bayer is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Wendel C. Bayer of East Main St., Rochester. A graduate of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, he has a B.A. degree in philosophy and a master's in theology. He was advanced to the diaconate two years ago and has served as a deacon at Sacred Heart Cathedral, St. Thomas the Apostle and the Catholic Family Center.

After training in the Army Chaplain School at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., he spent the summer of 1969 as a deacon at Fort Knox, Ky. Last summer he took



FATHER BAYER

his clinical pastoral training at the suicide prevention center at Memorial Hospital, Long Beach, Calif. Since then, he has been working with Father John J. Hempel on the diocesan campaign for Human Development. He lives at Becket Hall.

He is the fourth St. Bernard's man to be ordained this Spring.

Elmira Priest Heads Ministerial Association

Elmira — The first Catholic priest elected president of Elmira's Ministerial Association doesn't think there's anything unusual about his election to the post.

"In this ecumenical age, these things are happening everywhere," commented Father Robert Kanka, who will head the local ministerial group in the coming year.

"As Catholics and Protestants have gotten better acquainted, there's a realization that we're all part of the Body of Christ and that we have much to gain by working together for common goals," Father Kanka said.

The other officers elected together with Father Kanka are a Baptist minister, the Rev. Robert Markham (vice president), a Presbyterian clergyman, the Rev. Roger Kemp (secretary-treasurer), and a Lutheran pastor, the Rev. Delbert Resemer (program chairman).

Father Kanka has spent most of his priestly life in parish work from the time he was ordained 15 years ago. However, for three years he served as associate editor of the Catholic Courier-Journal.

Currently Father Kanka is assistant pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul's Church here.

The new president of the Ministerial Association has been active in ecumenical affairs since his arrival in Elmira 18 months ago. He's a member of the Greater Elmira Evangelical Ministers' Fellowship, and helped found an interfaith prayer group which meets weekly in Horseheads.

"There are many dimensions of the movement toward Christian unity," Father Kanka says.



FATHER KANKA

"There is need for theological dialogue among scholars, need for cooperation on social and community action. But there's also a special need for Christians of different denominations to meet at the level of prayer. When they meet in the name of Jesus to share their faith in a prayerful way, many of the old barriers melt and a vital unity in Christ emerges," Father Kanka concluded.

HUEBLERS' 55th

The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore J. Hiebler was the occasion of a dinner last Sunday at Brooklea Country Club.

Hosts were their children, Theodore E. Hiebler, Rosemary Boesel and Ruth Greenwell.

The Hieblers, of Malo Court, are members of Mother of Sorrows parish. They have 12 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

AN INSIDE LOOK

Auburn Area News	4B
Elmira Area News	7B
Hornell Area News	5B
Ithaca Area News	5B
Courier-Journal	