



25 Years Have Passed

# New Life At The Cenacle



*Photo provided by Cenacle Retreat House*

The picture at top and the one above illustrate the change in lifestyle which has come to the Sisters of the Cenacle since 1957, when the picture to the right was taken. A new diversity of dress and outlook has replaced the conformity of prescribed habits. Shown standing above are Sisters Marian Levendosky, Therese Murtha, Mary Walsh, Arline Brent, Rose Angela Genzale, Kathleen Flannigan and Sadie Nesser. Seated are Sisters Marie Halligan and Elizabeth Thackray. In photo at right Sister Roberta center enjoys a moment of socializing during a sisters retreat at the Cenacle with Sister Josephine.



**Text and Photos By Susan McKinney**

The Cenacle Retreat House will mark the 25th anniversary of its Rochester founding with a Jubilee Mass Saturday June 2 at 10 a.m. It was established in Rochester in 1948 at the invitation of Bishop James E. Kearney.

The Cenacle Sisters trace the origin of Cenacle retreats to the tomb of St. Francis Regis where Mother Therese Couderc established the order in 1826.

Time has brought change to the Cenacle, which has grown and expanded its facilities to accommodate the ever increasing number of people who seek to use the retreat's facilities. The Cenacle undertook major new construction when in 1957 a wing was added to the main house as part of a \$400,000 building campaign.

Changes at the Cenacle have not been limited to construction alone. The Cenacle now welcomes a wider variety of visitors than ever before. Originally established as a retreat house for women, it now receives many varied groups. Ecumenism and diversity prevail at the Cenacle where marriage encounter groups, Presbyterian high school students, Episcopalian women, Zen buddhists, and Catholic confirmation classes come to enjoy prayer and peace.

With the Cenacle's new emphasis on community needs there have come new roles for the Cenacle's sisters.

Originally a cloistered order of nuns, Cenacle Sisters today take a more active role in the community. The changing needs of the people have led Cenacle Sisters to working as CCD teachers and to helping the University of Rochester's Newman chaplain.