

Sister Bryan . . . New Career, Same Goal

By JOAN M. SMITH

"Service," Sister Mary Bryan Ford answered positively when asked what goals she had set for herself in her new position as pastoral assistant at Our Lady of Lourdes parish.

After 28 years of service as teacher and then principal at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Sister Bryan is embarking on a new endeavor which she described as "a new challenge and very exciting."

Her new duties will include hospital visitations, coordinating parish activities, visiting shut-ins and she added, with a twinkle in her eye, "perhaps some preaching."

Not that Sister Bryan preaches in the strict sense of the word but she has a way with words which makes listening an enjoyable learning experience. Her classroom lessons, especially in history, were exercises in imagination which captured for the student historical data which would never be forgotten. Even today she enthusiastically upholds the significance of history. "It is important," she declared "to have a sense of the past in order to relate it to the future. It is invaluable."

In 1948 when Sister first came to Mercy she laughingly recalls, "They didn't know what to do with me." She referred to her major in psychology, an academic background which at that time was isolated from the educational field. But with her minor in History she



SISTER BRYAN

soon became an important part of Mercy's Social Studies Department.

Throughout her years as both teacher and principal she has seen numerous changes in education, such as the introduction of school psychologists. "Also," she stated "we've become more person-oriented. Instead of worrying over rigid rules we are now more interested if the students are growing into good persons."

Sister believes teachers have

tremendous influence, and she maintains a strong confidence in the Catholic secondary educational system. "It is a marvelous alternative to public education and one which stresses moral and spiritual values," she said.

It was in 1968 that Sister accepted the duties as principal of Mercy. She described the time as one of tremendous historic impacts and changing ideals; the confusion of the Vietnam War, campus unrest which trickled down into the high schools, economical setbacks, and Vatican II.

"It was difficult," she stressed, "just to keep the school sane and orthodox."

During this time, however, the school made strides and she gives credit to the teaching staff and her administrative colleagues. She reviewed Mercy's academic program singling out its scholarship and college credit courses along with the school's training of students for leadership with its emphasis on "educating women who can stand on their own two feet."

Though she sees the opening of the pastoral assistant area as a great challenge for religious women, "No way," she declared, "am I thinking of ordination. There's too much work to be done."

Her work will not stop at Our Lady of Lourdes. Besides her pastoral duties she has applied at Nazareth College for a teaching position in education or psychology.

The Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School, on Sunday, June 6, honored Sister Bryan for her years of dedication as principal. Though she will be leaving her school administrative post, Mercy is not losing her. Sister will continue to reside at the Motherhouse and as she warmly said, "After all my home is 1437 Blossom Road."



Farewell!

Msgr. Joseph Gefell shares some of the highlights of his three years as pastor at St. Alphonsus, Auburn, with his brother and sister during a recent reception sponsored by the parish council. Msgr. Gefell's resignation as pastor is effective June 22. He will pursue studies at St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie. From left to right: Robert and Mary Gefell, Mrs. Frances Sullivan and Msgr. Gefell.

Kathleen Kolmer Professes Vows

Sister Kathleen Kolmer made her final profession of vows in the Sisters of Mercy on May 29 at the Mercy Motherhouse. The ceremony took place during an afternoon Eucharistic liturgy. Father James Marvin was the main celebrant and homilist.

Sister Kathleen is the daughter of Mrs. Marion Kolmer and the late Ralph Kolmer of St. Andrew's Parish. She entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1967 and made her first profession in 1970. A graduate of Mercy High School, she received a B.A. from SUNY at Geneseo in 1973. She is a teacher at St. Patrick's School in Owego.

FOOD WANTED

Penn Yan — Members of St. Michael's parish are asked by the human development committee to share food with the hungry of the community. Each Saturday and Sunday parishioners are invited to take their canned goods and other non-perishable staples and deposit them in the baskets located by the church doors. The food will be distributed to the needy of the area by the House of Concern.

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School Donation

Photo by Bob Tripicanno

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Boedicker, co-presidents of Blessed Trinity Home School Association, present Sister Walter Anne, SSJ, principal, with a check for \$3,000 for the school. The presentation was made at a teacher appreciation dinner at the Springside Inn in Auburn on Friday, May 21.

Two St. Joseph Sisters Make Final Profession

Sisters Kathleen McCarthy and Mary Seitzinger took their final vows as Sisters of St. Joseph last week, in separate ceremonies in the communities where they work. Both are teachers.

Sister Jamesine Riley, superior general here, received Sister Kathleen's vows at a Mass June 4 in the chapel of the cathedral convent with Bishop John E. McCafferty presiding.

Sister Kathleen's profession signalled the completion of her transfer from the Watertown congregation to what she described as "my original home," the source of my own spiritual growth.

Sister Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Seitzinger of St. Theodore's parish in Gates, professed her vows to Sister Jamesine on June 5, at Sacred Heart Church, Auburn. The Mass was concelebrated by priests from three Auburn parishes: Holy Family, Sacred Heart and St. Alphonsus, with music by the St. Alphonsus choir.

She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald McCarthy of St. John the Evangelist parish in Greece. After 14 years with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Watertown, she returned here two years ago and has been teaching at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Such a transfer is unusual, according to a spokeswoman for the local congregation.

Sister Mary teaches at Blessed Trinity School in Auburn and is working toward a master's degree at Nazareth College.

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