



Sisters of Mercy Honor Their Own

Photos by Susan McKinney

Celebrating their Diamond Jubilee are, left to right, Sisters Mary Teresina O'Hearn, Mary Josephine Souliman, Mary Gregory Duris, Mary Martha Lavey, and Mary Nolasco Lally. Seated: Sisters Mary Mercedes O'Rourke and Mary Margaret Saunders. Sister Mary Judith Heberle, Superior General, at right, congratulates the group.

By Sr. Elaine Kolesnik, RSM

A 25-year faith commitment to someone or something demands acknowledgment. And a 50-year commitment, to say nothing of a 60-year one, calls for pulling out all the stops.

And that's what the Sisters of Mercy will do on Sept. 26 when they celebrate the diamond, golden and silver anniversaries of 20 members of their order — a total of 945 years of religious life. The congregation will gather for Mass, followed by dinner in honor of seven Diamond, eight Golden and five Silver jubilarians. (The Diamond Jubilee commemorates the 60th anniversary.)

DIAMOND

Back in 1913, when Sister Mary Teresina O'Hearn, the longest professed of the seven Diamond jubilarians, entered the order, she could never have dreamed of the myriad number of first graders whose lives she would touch for 55 years at St. Andrew's Grammar School, Rochester, and Holy Family, Auburn.

Nor could Sister Mary Nolasco Lally, born in County Galway, Ireland, have anticipated 62 years as cook, primarily in supervision of the Motherhouse kitchen from 1931

till 1967, and her subsequent assistance there until this past spring.

Sister Mary Margaret Saunders can look back on many years as a music teacher in grade and high school, particularly 35 years at Our Lady of Mercy.

Sister Mary Mercedes O'Rourke remembers teaching all grades, but mostly at the junior high level and Aquinas.

Born in Holland, Sister Mary Josephine Souliman recalls many years of teaching grades 1-6 with lengthy stretches at St. John the Evangelist, Rochester, St. Patrick's Owego, and St. Michael's, Newark.

Sister Mary Martha Lavey has taught all grades. She taught English, Latin and French at Mercy High when it first opened in 1929, and Latin and biology for 20 years at Holy Family High School, Auburn. She was more recently librarian at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell.

Both a principal and a teacher, Sister Mary Gregory Duris moved through intermediate and junior high grades to teaching English, dramatics and typing in senior high at Holy Family, Auburn; Elmira Catholic High, Aquinas, and Mercy

GOLDEN

The golden jubilarians are Sisters Mary Alma Waterstraat, former principal, superior and teacher; Mary Imelda Corrigan, former music and grade teacher, currently in visitation ministry; Mary Celine Frank, former teacher, mostly at the junior high level, currently sacristan and clerical assistant at the Motherhouse; Mary Evangelist Meyer, former principal, superior and grade and high school teacher, currently an AV Resource Center coordinator at St. James Grammar School, Rochester; Mary Loretto Cason, former grade school teacher; Mary Immina Ceyer, former teacher of Spanish and business at Mercy High, former Secretary General of the congregation and Secretary to the Executive Council, currently a member of the secretarial staff in the congregational administrative offices; Mary Helen Casey, former principal, grade and high school teacher; Mary Adolphine Cooley, former principal, superior, grade and music teachers, recently in hospital visitation at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell.

The senior jubilarians, like the other senior sisters, pray for particular intentions and adopted apostolates. To illustrate, Sister Alma's special intention is Cursillo Retreats and the Diocesan Priests Council and her adopted apostolate is St. Bernard's Seminary. Sister Gregory's special intention is the elderly in the diocese and her adopted apostolate is Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish. And so it goes.

SILVER

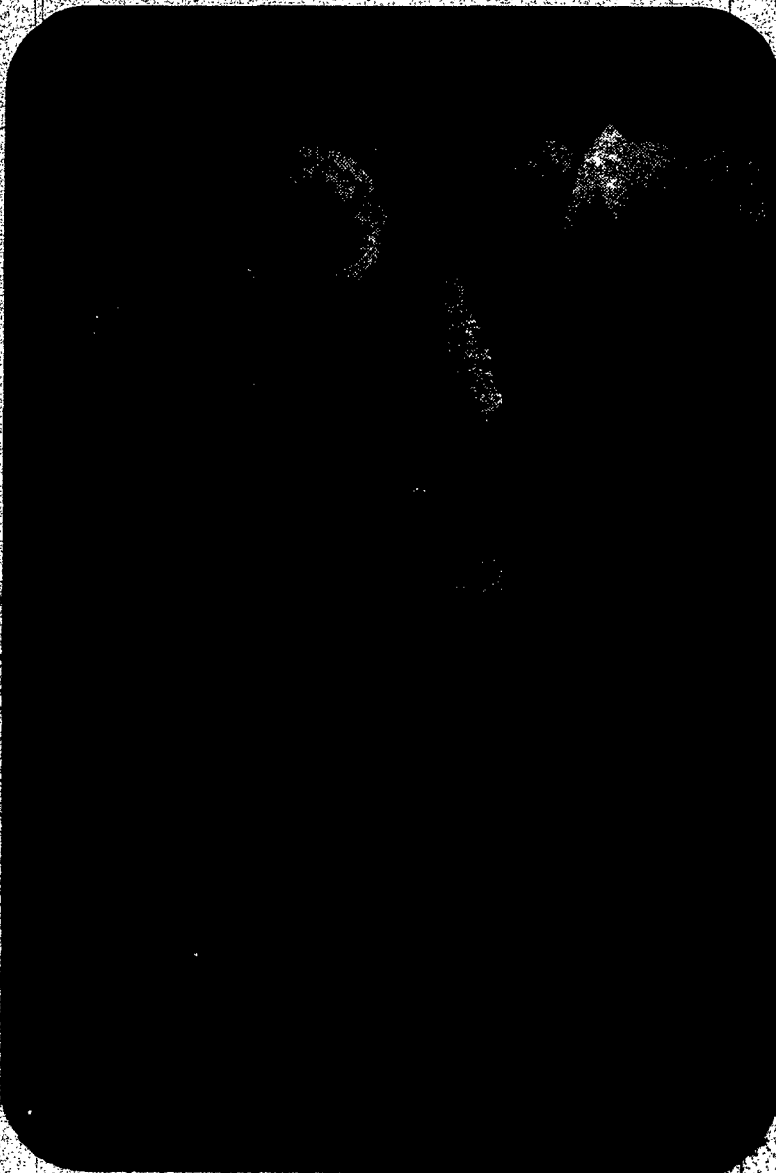
The youngest anniversary group, the Silver Jubilarians, are engaged in a variety of ministries. Sister Mary Bryan Ford, until the past June principal at Mercy High



Sister Mary Gregory, Diamond Jubilarian, takes her turn managing the switchboard.



Sister Mary Mercedes seated, is visited by Golden Jubilarians Sisters Mary Imelda, left and Mary Loretto.



Sister Mary Helen is anointed by Father Terence Fleming, the motherhouse chaplain. Seated at left is Sister Mary Adolphine and standing is Sister Mary Cozstance Case, Sister Mary Helen's sister.



Sister Mary Margaret, Diamond Jubilarian, is visited by Anne Curtis, Joan Blawie and Nancy Kelly, left.