

Sister Mary Jean Assumes New Post

By Joan M. Smith

After nine years at Nazareth Academy — three as vice principal and six as principal — and 29 years in the education field, Sister Mary Jean Smith, SSJ, is assuming new duties as Assistant Superior General of the Rochester diocesan congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Recently, while she performed a last function as principal of Nazareth — conducting rehearsals for the 1979 graduating class — the Courier-Journal stopped by to discuss her leaving the school and the challenges she would be facing in her new position.

Though she admitted changes in administrations

were necessary, she said she would miss Nazareth.

"I'll miss working with dedicated faculty and the chance to make educational changes," she said emphasizing that that was the greatest advantage of the Catholic educational system — the ability to change in order to meet the requirements and interests of the community.

And it is these changes, incorporated at Nazareth during her years as principal, which she is particularly proud to pinpoint.

"We've had a real expansion of programs," she explained, "based on meeting individual student interests and needs, especially in urban areas."

According to Sister Mary Jean a special need which Nazareth answered was the educational disadvantages which for one reason or another, were suffered by the students from the 60s. Because of their lack of basic learning skills, "What they needed," she said, "was special programs in small classes with time to develop."

Nazareth initiated a program around this need and this September the Fundamental Learning Skills Program becomes a four-year program offering a valid diploma.

"It's a thrill for me to see students who would have been lost in the classroom successful," she said, and noted that their motivation

comes from the fact they know they can succeed.

Continuing will be the close academic cooperation between Aquinas and Nazareth which was fostered under her administration, and there will be a new foray into the dual enrollment program — this September, Nazareth students will be joining students at Edison Tech for vocational courses. Also, the school in its continuation of expanding academic achievement curriculum, is adding biology and history AP courses.

Another change Sister is delighted to expound upon is the school's policy of helping students with personal problems.

"This," she declared, "is the one thing I love about Nazareth — this reaching out to the person."

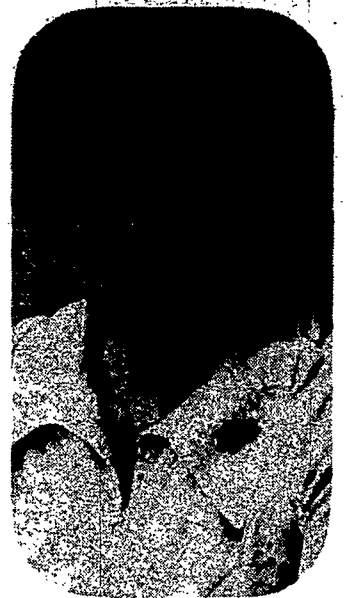
Regarding her new duties, which will be in the planning and personnel areas, Sister Mary Jean noted it was an exciting time to become involved because "it is a critical time of renewal."

"We're looking for a deeper commitment," was how she explained the goal of women religious, adding, "And I see our sisters as a wealth of education, not only in the education field but in all fields — dedicated religious and women with vision."

During her years in education Sister taught on the elementary level, serving as principal of Sacred Heart School. She spent three years on the teaching staff of St. Agnes High School. Currently, she is president of the Sister's Council and as such, welcomed in their name, Bishop Matthew H. Clark

during his installation, June 26.

The previous night, she had officiated for the last time over a Nazareth graduation, already missing the school and her co-workers, but confident of the bright future ahead for them. Of her successors, Sister Judith McKay, principal, and sisters Elaine Englert and Carol Cimino, vice principals she said, "They are creative and committed and all graduates of Nazareth. With their richness of skills, Nazareth moves into a rich future."



SR. MARY JEAN SMITH

On the Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

He Watched Installation On Television

Since the last OTRS column, June 20, we have the beginning of a new era.



Before the installation of Bishop Clark, Father Doell phoned me from Waterloo. "Father Shamon is scheduled for a conference in Steubenville, Ohio, June 25-29. I am slated for Youth Conference in New York on the same dates. Could you take care of Waterloo Monday through Friday?" "Yes. That would be perfect. I am taking care of Weedsport the preceding Saturday and Sunday for Father Heindl, and can move right over to Waterloo afterward." "Good. We will announce this to our parishioners."

The timing was perfect. I was gasoline conscious. Weedsport would put me near Syracuse where my invalid sister lives; and also near Auburn where my brother Frank, so active with the Knights of Columbus, was in the hospital. At 5:50 p.m. Saturday George and Flora Hayes, parish factota, settled me in at the Weedsport rectory. Fr. Heindl had written: "Use your judgement on the liturgy and homily. A new face and new voice are a benediction to the people." So I talked on Our Lady's rosary. Now St. Joseph's parish, which is considered a diocesan plum, is richer today by having 71 copies of the Scriptural Rosary booklet made available after each Mass. Late Sunday afternoon I visited my invalid sister in Syracuse; later slipped east to Auburn. Housekeeper Julia Mosey welcomed me to Waterloo rectory.

All the area priests were poised for the Tuesday installation of Bishop Clark. However, there always has to be a priest available for emergencies, so I volunteered to care for Geneva

and Seneca Falls as well as Waterloo during the installation. This tempted me to feel like a minor bishop, but with great virtue I resisted pride. This was more simple from the fact that there were no emergency calls at all. It did give me the perfect opportunity of viewing the installation on the TV. Seventh grader Billy Mull, brother of Father Thomas Mull of St. Ambrose, came as telephone answerer in case I was called out. We watched the installation together.

Many have commented on the installation Liturgy. The comments vary from "theatrical" to "a moving spiritual experience." I myself was quite pleased. There were dignity and reverence, humaneness and graciousness. The center of all, of course, was the new bishop, with a touching applause for Bishop Hogan. Cardinal Cook and Abp. Jadot, and the visiting bishops were not given much TV exposure; and the priests almost none. A surprisingly large number of Sisters in Habit were visibly there; and undoubtedly there were many other Sisters incognito. The play on the Clark family, especially the little nieces, was a gentle touch.

The visibility of the Spanish speaking lector and choir, the Black Choir, the black missionary bishop and the coronal mitres of the Eastern Rite bishops gave a special touch of universality

Eight Area Priests Attend Conference

Eight diocesan priests recently attended the 5th National Charismatic Conference for Priests and Deacons at the College of Steubenville in Ohio.

More than 1000 priests, deacons and bishops attended the conference, the theme of which was Apostolic Renewal.

The diocesan priests are Fathers Robert J. Miller, Good Shepherd; Albert Shamon, St. Mary's, Waterloo; Edward Shamon,

in a sea of middle-class Catholicism. While I admired the voices and skill of the choir, and the direction which even stirred the tonsils of the congregation, I am always disappointed at the repression of the great music of the Church. And I was dismayed — and still am — that not even one short hymn was given to honor Our Blessed Mother. It was like giving the Bishop a big party, and ignoring his mother back in Waterford. This seems ominous when one considers the honor for Our Lady called for in the Vatican II Dogmatic Constitution on the Church; and considering the devotion of our Chief Shepherd for Mary. It is tragic considering authentic ecumenism, brought out by Pope Paul VI in his letter, *Cultus Mariae*, to all the bishops in the world. In this letter he declared Mary the key to ecumenism, considering the reverence which the Orthodox, many Anglicans and Lutherans, and an increasing number of bona fide Protestants have for Christ's Mother.

Our new Bishop has a TV presence which is exceptional; voice, mien, carriage, simplicity, spiritual grace. I hope he will use it often to communicate the love of Christ, reverence for Our Lady, and the Church's concern for all men, through TV and also radio. There is much discussion about communicating, but much of the discussion reminds me of the comment of L. B. Johnson: "When all is said and done, more is said than done." In any event, we keep Bishop Hogan in our prayers and heart. We follow Bishop Clark with high expectations. May Jesus and Mary bless them both, and all of us.

St. Aloysius, Auburn; Thomas Reddington, Holy Name; David Simon, Holy Name; Robert Gaudio, St. Alphonsus, Auburn; Daniel Karl, St. Augustine's; and Ronald Harley, St. Paul's, Webster.

In a report on the meeting, Father Harley remarked that he and Fathers Miller, Reddington and Simon returned to Rochester for the installation of Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and then flew back to the Steubenville gathering.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

"Sharing Summer"



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Summer — and all the outdoor fun that comes with it — is a welcome change. The whole world seems to come alive, and thoughts stray to tennis, swimming, boating, camping and sunbathing.

As a part of your summer activities, plan a time to visit a friend who is in the hospital — or a shut-in on your block. Your friendship and visit will mean so much. A friendly chat, some of the latest news and a genuine interest in the well being of our friend will be long remembered.

Perhaps someone you know experienced the death of a loved one not long ago. Offering to include them in some of your summer activities would be a thoughtful way to express your concern. Friendship is a great healer — and only you can provide it.

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