

Sisters Mark Silver Jubilee

Some 450 members of the Northeastern Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame gathered on Saturday, June 12, at their motherhouse in Wilton, Conn., to celebrate the silver jubilee of the formation of their province.

The province was officially formed in 1957, with the new, pentagon-shaped motherhouse being dedicated on Dec. 8, 1961.

Members of the original Provincial Council — Mother Paschal Carton, Sister Emmanuel Teehan, and Sister Theodora Van Bommel — were present for the celebration.

At Home Retreats Slated

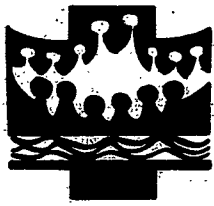
The new "At Home Retreats" program, in which a limited group of married women gather in private homes for a 13-week session of prayer and meditation based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, will open Sept. 13, under the aegis of the Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal.

The day began with a liturgy celebrated by Bishop Walter W. Curtis of Bridgeport, and continued with many afternoon events. Following dinner, the Sisters listened to a concert given by a chorus of their colleagues singing original compositions by some musicians of the province.

Further information on the program is available by contacting Sister Betty Rogers, RC, 271-8755; Sister Anna Louise Staub, SSJ, 586-8291; or Mrs. Kathleen Murty, 436-1284.

Since 1957, mission areas have opened up in Chile, Liberia and Peru, teamed by the School Sisters. The traditional apostolate of education has opened up to include ministries such as parish work, social services, health care, and jail ministry.

Insights In Liturgy



An Open Letter

Dear Parish Liturgy Committee:

A year ago this past Spring, I began a study of the parish liturgy teams in the parishes throughout the diocese. This study began by seeking information: the names of people involved, the make-up of your committee, your problems, your successes. In an attempt to put living people in place of lists of names, I had hoped to visit parishes and see the liturgy teams at work on their home ground. Unfortunately we were two this year in a three-person office, and I did not accomplish this goal.

However, other things happened that helped me focus on the difficulties parish teams were experiencing in their attempt to help their parish communities celebrate good, authentic worship when they gathered on Sunday morning. One of those happenings involved seven phone calls from seven different parishes who wanted to start a parish liturgy team and wanted to begin on the right foot. In preparing to speak to these groups and in listening to their concerns, it seemed that two things were a top priority: education of team members and a need to set a direction or goal for the team itself. In response to these two needs, the Liturgy Office will offer both a goal-setting workshop for parish liturgy teams at Keuka College on Aug. 20-21 and a formation program that will run from September to December in the Rochester area and January to May in the Southern Tier. Information about both programs will be coming to your parishes soon.

greatly influenced my vision of parish liturgy teams was the Ordo Missae Study in which nearly 50 parishes in the diocese participated. One of the things that the participants in the study said over and over is "more education is needed." They felt they themselves needed more information as well as the liturgical ministers and their parish communities. In an attempt to aid with this education process, the Liturgy Office is bringing Father Eugene Walsh back to the diocese for two workshops: one in the Fall dealing with the Liturgy of the Word, another in the Spring dealing with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. For parish musicians, Michael Joncas, composer of the well-known Eagle's Wings album, will join us in October to discuss the creative use of music at the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Non-musicians will find this workshop of value, too.

One final happening: we have become again a three-person office! So, I can plan (and this time carry out the plans) to be present at parish liturgy team meetings to see you in action and get in touch with your particular successes and difficulties. Therefore, I ask that you call and invite me to one of your meetings — not to speak, necessarily, but to listen and observe. Perhaps, too, I can follow through on your suggestion to gather liturgy teams together in various regions to share ideas, hopes, successes and failures.

I hope we can work together to further the reign of God in our midst and to provide meaningful, authentic celebration of the Eucharist in every parish community.

Sincerely,
Sister Nancy Barkin, SSJ
Associate Director
Liturgy Office

Another happening that

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