

Three Sisters of Mercy Share 180 Years Service

Though none of the diamond jubilarians of the Sisters of Mercy are Rochester natives, they have spent a total of 180 years as religious in this diocese.

Sister Mary Felix Monahan was born in Ransonville; Sister Mary Julia Ryan in South Wales, N.Y.; and Sister Mary Pierre VanVliet in Wellsboro, Pa.

Sister Mary Felix was a teacher in diocesan elementary schools, primarily in grades 1-4, for 49 years. She taught for 15 years at St. John's, Clyde; nine years at St. James, Rochester; and her last assignment was 12 years at St. Helen's. She also taught at Mount Carmel, St. Salome's and Holy Cross, all of Rochester; St. Patrick's, Owego; St. Ann's, Hornell; and St. Cecilia's, Elmira. Since she retired to the motherhouse in 1974, her ministry has been the Spiritual Apostolate of prayer.

Since 1972, Sister Mary Julia has been involved in Jail Ministry, but before that was a teacher for 48 years.



SISTER M. FELIX

She spent eight of those years at diocesan elementary schools, among them St. Salome's and Holy Cross; St. John's, Clyde; St. Ann's, Hornell; and St. Vincent's, Corning. The majority of her teaching was at the high school level, primarily as a math and science instructor. She taught at the former Holy Family High School, Auburn, from 1931 to 1957, and at Our Lady of Mercy High School from 1958 to 1972. From 1965 to 1974, she volunteered as a tutor and family visitor in conjunction with the Sister of Mercy inner city ministry in



SISTER M. JULIA

the Joseph Avenue neighborhood. Since leaving teaching, her ministries have included tutoring at the former Mount Carmel School, 1972-74; working in the Mercy High Media Center, 1974 to present; tutoring and library work at the Monroe County Jail since 1972. She has received various citations for her jail ministry work. Sister Mary Pierre has been a parish visitor of the sick and elderly in the St. John of Rochester, Fairport, parish since 1980. Immediately prior to that she



SISTER M. PIERRE

made visitations in St. Andrew's parish from 1970 to 1980. For the major part of her religious life, 46 years, she was an administrator and a teacher of grades 1-8, with 18 years spent at the junior high level. For 27 years she was a teacher-principal and convent superior at St. Patrick's, Owego; St. Patrick's, Elmira; and St. Salome's, where she spent 21 years. Her last teaching assignment was for nine years at St. Andrew's School. She also taught at St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Penfield; and Aquinas Institute.

Mercy Day Will Honor Jubilees

The Sisters of Mercy annual celebration, Mercy Day, will spill over three days this year, Sept. 24-26.

The feast of Our Lady of Mercy, Sept. 24, will be the occasion for a special fête honoring the congregation's 20 diamond, silver or golden jubilarians.

On Saturday, members of the congregation will discuss proposed long-range congregational goals, drafted earlier this year. Sister Jean Marie Kearse, superior general, will address the gathering during the program.

Sunday's events will include a Mercy Day Mass and dinner honoring the jubilarians.

Also that day a Commissioning Rite will be held. During the rite, each sister will renew her commitment to service and will be blessed and commissioned to her particular ministry for the following year.

The congregation's long-range planning committee, chaired by Sister Mary Judith Heberle, former superior general, planned the weekend's events. Other members of the committee are Sisters Jacqueline DeMars, Mary Hilaire Gaeleens, Michael Lappetto, Anne Marie Lennon, Joan McAteer, Mary Rene McNiff, Ann Miller and Gaye Lynn Moorhead.

Mercy 'Rosary Band' Notes Jubilees

When they entered the Mercy congregation in 1931, this year's golden jubilarians of the Sisters of Mercy were called the "Rosary Band," because there were 15 of them then.

Today, 11 remain to celebrate 50 years since their reception day, June 7, 1932.

Sister Mary Roberta Burkhardtmeier, born in Towner, N. Dak., taught for 31 years in the diocesan primary grades, specializing in first grade. She was at St. Ann's, Hornell, for 18 years, and also taught at Mt. Carmel and Holy Cross, Rochester; St. Rita's, West Webster; St. Louis, Pittsford; and St. John's, Clyde. She also is engaged in social work and visitation at the motherhouse infirmary, St. Catherine, Mendon, and other places.

Sister Mary Eileen Fitzgibbons, a native of Hornell, taught grades one through five in diocesan elementary schools for 47 years. She spent 21 years at St. Patrick's, Elmira, with other long stints at St. Cecilia's, Elmira; St. Louis, Pittsford; and Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira. She also taught at Old St. Mary's, St. Andrew's and Mt. Carmel, Rochester; and St. Joseph's, Penfield.

Sister Mary Irene Gardner, formerly Sister Mary David, has been an assistant in the treasurer's office of the Sisters of Mercy administrative center since 1981. Previously, she held administrative posts in education at both the diocesan and congregational levels for 16 years, was a teacher for 36 years, and coordinated the motherhouse retirement program at the motherhouse. In addition, she successively served as diocesan education

supervisor for the congregation, as educational coordinator at the diocesan Schools Office, and as assistant superintendent for instruction at that office. She also was principal at St. Michael's, Newark, and teacher-principal at St. Cecilia's, Rochester. She taught on the elementary school level at St. Andrew's, St. Ann's, Hornell; Holy Cross, St. Charles, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Patrick's, Elmira. For 20 years she also taught high school mathematics, science and English at Our Lady of Mercy High School, and at the former Elmira Catholic High School.

Sister Mary Sylvester Gehl, born in White Mills, Pa., taught in elementary schools throughout the diocese for 40 years, and continued teaching by tutoring when she left the classroom as a full-time occupation. She has taught at St. Rita's, West Webster; Mt. Carmel, Rochester; Holy Family, Auburn; St. Ann's, Hornell; St. John the Evangelist, Rochester; St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester; St. Salome, Rochester; St. John, Clyde; St. Patrick, Elmira;

St. Vincent, Corning; St. Andrew, Rochester; and St. Louis, Pittsford.

Sister Mary Agnes Theresa Georger, a teacher at St. Louis, Pittsford, since 1974, has taught in elementary schools for 45 years. She served a total of 21 years at St. Andrew's in Rochester, and 11 years at St. John's, Clyde. At the last she also was parish assistant and religious education coordinator. She also taught at Holy Cross, Rochester; St. Patrick's, Elmira; Mt. Carmel, Rochester; and St. Joseph's, Penfield. During the past several summers she has served as parish assistant at Holy Name Parish.

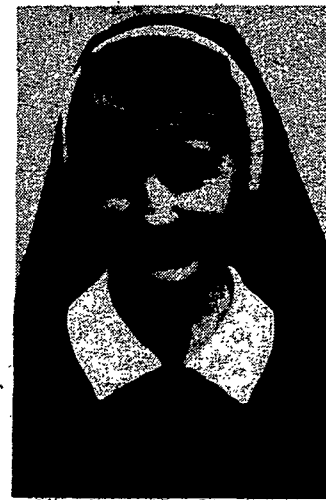
In 1981 Sister Mary Leon Gilman retired after 49 years of full-time teaching, but has continued her classroom association by tutoring at St. Andrew's. A kindergarten and first grade teacher in diocesan schools since 1931, she has been at St. Andrew's since 1968. She spent 26 years at St. Thomas the Apostle, and also taught at Mt. Carmel, Rochester; St. Cecilia's, Elmira; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Mary's, Bath and St. Mary's, Corning.

Sister Mary Rosaria

Hughes has been a program planner and developer in the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry in Elmira since 1980. Prior to that she was executive director of Wayne County Community Action Program (CAP) for ten years. She had previously served three years as a senior training officer at the Office of Economic Opportunity's Multi-Purpose Training Center at Atlanta University, Ga. An eighth-grade teacher for 30 of her 35 teaching years, Sister Rosaria served 21 years at the former Holy Family School in Auburn, first as teacher and later as teacher-principal. She also taught at Holy Cross and St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; St. Mary's, Corning; St. John the Evangelist, Rochester; St. Patrick's, Elmira; St. Thomas the Apostle and Cardinal Mooney High School. In addition, for 16 years, she conducted a reading laboratory in Auburn.

Sister Mary Florita Kast has been study hall proctor at Our Lady of Mercy High School since 1980. Prior to that she taught in diocesan elementary schools for 47

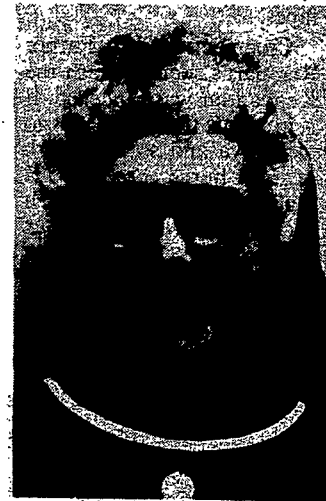
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SISTER M. ROBERTA



SISTER M. AGNES



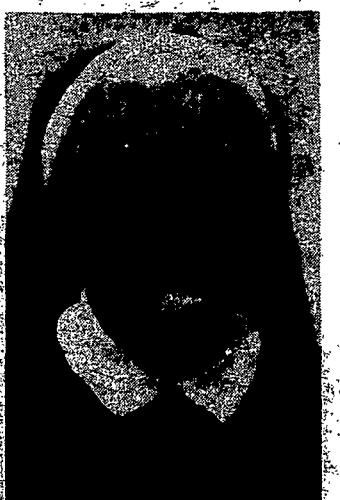
SISTER M. SYLVESTER



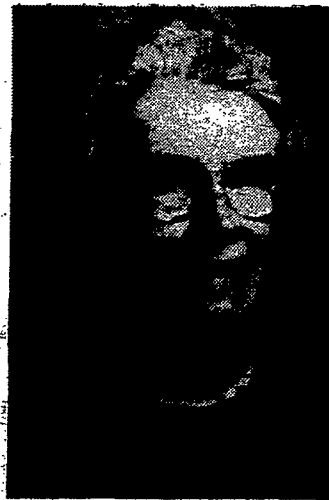
SISTER M. LEON



SISTER M. IRENE



SISTER M. EILEEN



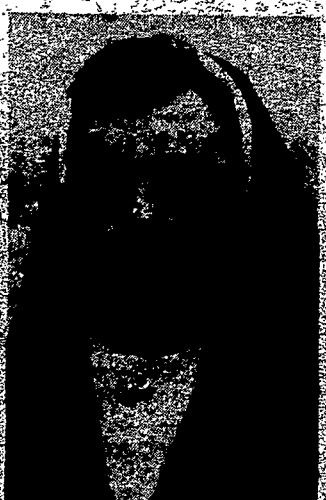
SISTER M. ROSARIA



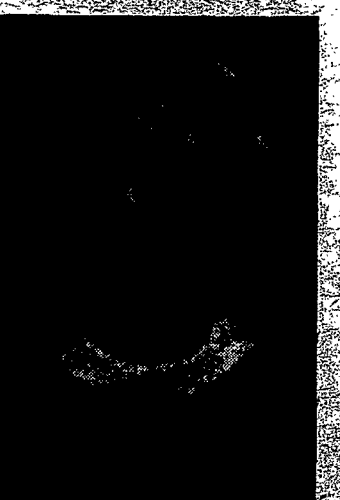
SISTER M. FLORITA



SISTER M. ALPHONSUS



SISTER M. EUGENE



SISTER M. ALBERTA