

Our Lady of Mercy Parish Celebrates 25th Jubilee

Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church are celebrating the 25th anniversary of their foundation this year, and among the most enjoyable aspects of that celebration is the issuing of a booklet detailing the human dimension of the parish community.

Titled simply, "Our Story, 1957-1982," and written by Hilda Smythe, the pamphlet is not, in her words, "meant to be a serious historical account of our parish but, rather, a lighthearted look at it."

"Important details," she cautioned, "have been checked for accuracy, but some incidents have been enlarged upon for your enjoyment."

Historical data in the parish file reveal that it was founded in 1957 by Father Michael O'Brien who labored for almost two years to establish the congregation, but who died March 23, 1958.

He was succeeded by Father John S. Whalen whose tenure was to last 15 years, and during whose time the parish plant of school, church, rectory and convent was dedicated.

Mrs. Smythe's account paints his years vividly and affectionately, devoting three pages to a retelling of the story of the purchase of the parish's first school bus — an ad-

A Second Celebration

An interesting coincidence in connection with the Mercy parish celebration has been noted by Mrs. Smythe.

Twenty five years ago, Times-Union writer Rose Sold observed that the neighboring John Knox Presbyterian Church was also in the process of forming and that the founding minister, Rev. John MacInnes, shared with Father O'Brien a number of organizational problems and duties.

"Already the two men both currently involved in organizing their parishes, have behind them hours of toil," she wrote Oct. 19, 1957.

Ms. Sold spelled out a number of those labors: "Visiting prospective parishioners; setting up administrative details of a new parish; conferring on proposed fund drives, buildings, etc.; organizing men, women and children into various church associations; finding a place to hold temporary services and

venture precisely poised on the division between high comedy and nightmare. At one point in the tale, the pastor and a parishioner find themselves driving next to a runaway at La Guardia Airport; and the entire episode should be read by lovers of not only humor but suspense.

gathering the equipment needed for the services."

"Immediately before them," she wrote, "lie these similar tasks in their respective parishes: (1) Campaigns to raise funds for the new building; (2) raising mortgage money; (3) planning of new buildings with architects, and (4) helping oversee construction."

She said that this was all in addition to the "usual jobs of ministering to a flock," which, by their nature, are similar.

John Knox Presbyterian celebrated its 25th anniversary Sept. 19-26. A highlight of the festivities was the moment Rev. John MacInnes returned to the pulpit to deliver the anniversary sermon. He and his wife Barbara now live in West Bloomfield, Mich. He left John Knox 16 years ago. The present pastor of the congregation is Rev. Robert F. Stevens Sr.

AI: Marcos Uses Arrest, Torture

By Liz Schevichuk
Washington (NC) — Although Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos lifted martial law in 1981 and has claimed that human rights are not being violated in his nation, "government forces in the Philippines continue to engage in illegal detention, torture, disappearances and arbitrary killings on a wide scale," according to Amnesty International.

Moreover, despite laws governing the rights of its citizens, Amnesty International "found there is overwhelming evidence that the principles enunciated by the government on the treatment of people suspected of crimes of a political nature are systematically disregarded," the report said.

The report is based on findings of an Amnesty International team which visited the Philippines Nov. 11-28, 1981, about 10 months after Marcos lifted the martial law which he imposed in 1972.

Marcos in a National Press Club speech in Washington Sept. 17 during a U.S. visit, said that Amnesty had never visited his nation.

Amnesty stated that almost half of the cases of alleged human rights violations it investigated occurred after martial law was lifted.

"Despite the lifting of martial law, government forces in the Philippines continue to engage in illegal detention, torture, disappearances and arbitrary killings on a wide scale," said A. Whitney Ellsworth, a member of the Amnesty team which visited the Philippines and of Amnesty's international executive committee.

In 1974, Father Whalen took the post of pastor at St. Patrick's Church in Mt. Morris, leaving his assistant of nine years, Father William Amann, as co-pastor with Father Charles Latus.

The team pastorate lasted until 1978 when Father Latus was named secretary to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

In 1981, Father Amann was succeeded by Father John Quinn, former pastor of St. Stephen's in Geneva. Father Amann later was to be named founding pastor of the new St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, taking with him a major figure in the history of Our Lady of Mercy, Deacon Robert Solan, ordained among the first class of permanent deacons for the diocese this past year.

Mrs. Smythe stated:

"Bob Solan, who had worked so diligently not only at the very beginning but all through our 25 years, was ordained a Deacon and is now helping his former pastor, Father Amann in Hamlin. When asked about his vocation, Bob replied that he had followed (his wife) Clara's example of commitment to the parish. Neither one of them wanted to be just 'ordinary parishioners.' At Our Lady of Mercy we surely have been blessed with many who wished the same thing."

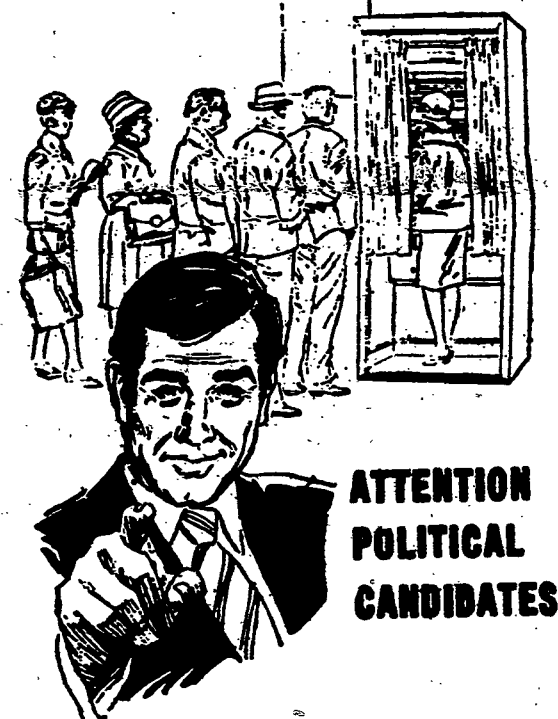
Open House Scheduled For Nurses

The Department of Nursing of Nazareth College has scheduled an open house for registered nurses interested in the college's upper level baccalaureate nursing program from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 5, in the Forum of the Otto A. Shults Community Center.

Diploma and associate degree graduates of area nursing programs are invited.

Among the topics will be admission requirements, curriculum design, opportunities for part-time and full-time study, and managing work, study and family responsibilities.

The program leads to a BS in nursing.



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Mercy Jubilarians

Six Sisters of Mercy were wined and dined recently on the occasion of their 25th jubilee in the congregation. They are (left to right), seated: Sister Margaret Ann Lawson, X-ray technician at Strong Memorial Hospital; Sister Joan Hilbert, art teacher and department head at Our Lady of Mercy High School; Sister Mary Jo Langie, student in counseling courses at the University of Rochester; (standing) Sister Mary Bernard Entress, religious education coordinator at Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton; Sister Mary Beth Teddy, student at Alfred University and instructor at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell; and Sister Karen Berl, pastoral assistant at St. John's Parish in Spencerport.

National Liturgy Unit Meet in Buffalo

The national meeting of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions will take place Oct. 11 to 14 at the Hilton Hotel in Buffalo.

Representing Rochester at the convention will be Fathers Robert J. Kennedy and Thomas P. Mull. Three area artists, Sister Estelle Martin, RSM, Sister Kristin Malone, SSI, and William Kuser will display liturgical art.

The theme of the convention is "Symbol: Major presentations will include

"The Pilgrim," a musical, liturgical production of a medieval matins drama, at 8 p.m., Monday, Oct. 11, at St. Joseph's Cathedral. Admission is \$3.50.

"Symbol and Its Embodiment in Word," a presentation by Father Edward K. Braxton, will be given at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 12 (admission \$3). Dr. Don E. Sallers will speak on "Non-Verbal Symbols: Symbol as Action and Gesture," at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13 (admission \$3), and "Symbol: Synthesis and Future

Direction," will be the topic of a discussion by Father James E. LoPresti, SJ, at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 14 (admission \$3). All presentations, unless otherwise noted, will take place at the Hilton Hotel, 120 Church St.

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy will report and respond to questions from participants.

More information is available from the diocesan Office of Liturgy at (716) 328-3210.



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