

Mercy Principal Resigns; Has Sights on Classroom

Sister Mary Bonaventure Hall, RSM, principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School for the past seven years, has announced her resignation effective July 1.

During her tenure a more structured curriculum was achieved which still allowed for electives but put more emphasis on core courses, computer education was introduced, and the athletic program advanced with more sports added to the JV and varsity levels. Besides being instrumental in improving the quality of teams and coaches, it was during Sister Bonaventure's time as principal that the William

Stolze Athletic Field came into being.

Sister Bonaventure admitted that "the increased interest and involvement" of parents' groups and other committees have been a great help to her through the years. She sees this as an important growth factor for the school.

In a school news release announcing Sister Bonaventure's resignation, it was stated that although she enjoyed the challenges presented during her years as principal, she feels that after a number of years any principal loses some creative touch to help the school move forward.

She stressed that the job itself has changed and needs someone with different types of talents than her own. She has no regrets leaving her position.

"I think of what I am going to, not what I am leaving," she said. She would like to teach high school math and to utilize her experience in student scheduling. "I see the education of young women as a very important work in the Church for religious women."

In referring to the school itself, Sister Bonaventure said she hoped that Mercy will "continue to see itself as making its contribution to the community as a Catholic secondary school for girls." She feels that there are advantages to having an all-girls school in today's world. She also hopes that the "Mercy Spirit" that has been at Mercy from the very beginning will continue flourish and grow.

Sister Bonaventure is a native of Rochester from St. Boniface parish. She graduated from Mercy High



SR. M. BONAVENTURE

and entered the Sisters of Mercy after graduation. She made her final profession of vows with the Sisters of Mercy in 1945. She holds a BA in Latin and math from Nazareth College and an MS in math from the University of Notre Dame. She has a PhD in secondary school administration from St. John's University in New York. Previous to being principal at Mercy, Sister Bonaventure taught at Mercy from 1944 to 1976 and was assistant principal 1968-71. She also taught at Catherine McAuley College and was its dean for two years. She has been active in the congregation and has served six years on the Sisters of Mercy Executive Council.

Coronary Club

The monthly meeting of the Coronary Club of Rochester will be held 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 8, in the Bishop Kearney Lounge of St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Jeffrey

Levenkron, assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Rochester, will speak on "Coronary Patients and Depression," according to the group's spokesman, Henry T. Hickey of Selye Terrace.

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All in the Family

All She Needs Is A Little Hope

"Is this the day you visit the insane asylum?" the seventh grader asked before leaving for school.

"It's called the psychiatric center," I said and, seeing the look on her face added, "It's not like what you see in the movies."

And it wasn't.

"Just be yourself," the young nurse said as our group of 10 moved into the locked activity room where some 30 women all over the age of 65 sat motionless, some of them sleeping. Only one was engaged in any activity; she was folding towels, white institutional ones.

A TV with distorted picture thundered through the room but I couldn't make out what the soap opera actors were saying and doubted the patients could either.

Outside the sun was unusually brilliant against the old brick buildings on South Avenue. Inside, the room was light enough but none of the day's natural cheer seemed to penetrate.

Earlier some of us had voiced doubts about what we should say. Now as we stopped here and there to chat with the various women, my own comments seemed inane.

The young nurse came by as I was speaking to one patient and stopped at the next chair where a woman in her 70s lay curled in a fetal position.

"Ellen (not her real name) is one of my favorites," she said. It was an invitation to move over and I did. Ellen awoke, frail, thin, white hair askew, a yellow sweater covering her light polyester dress, her legs bare above her ankle socks.

"Hello, Ellen," I said and told her my name. "How are you?"

"I'm depressed," she said.

Watery blue eyes did not meet mine.

"I know some people who've been depressed," I said.

"Did they get better?"

"Yes."

"How?"

"Medicine and people caring about them."

"I'm afraid I'm not going to get better." Her voice came suddenly in a long trailing cry. "Oh, God I wish I were dead."

I groped for the right thing to say and found myself telling her about an article I'd just read about new advances in treatment, without going into detail.

She listened, then told me something about herself. She'd been there for a year, never been married, had no family, did not have a Bible but read "Song of Bernadine (sic)." She had once enjoyed doing embroidery but no longer.

She wanted to know where I lived and I told her and asked where her home was since several others I had talked to had volunteered this information.

"This is my home," she said baldly and began to moan softly. "Oh, God, I wish I were dead. I'm afraid I'm not going to get better. Tell me I'm going to get better," she pleaded.

"Yes," I said. "Yes. You will."

"Will you pray for me?"

I told her I would ask a lot of people to pray for her.

Some of our group had begun to pass the cookies and juice we had brought and I got a drink for Ellen.

Somewhat later I strode through the unusually strong January sunshine to my car. I had asked Ellen if I could bring her something next time, thinking of bright embroidery silks against the monotony of the room, but she had said no. All she wanted was juice. And hope.

Tuition Tax Credits, School Prayer Still Supported by Reagan

Washington (NC) — President Reagan reiterated his support for a constitutional amendment on school prayer and for tuition tax credits during his annual State of the Union address Jan. 25.

Reagan's mention of the school prayer and tuition tax credit issues came during a portion of the 45-minute speech devoted to what the president said was the need for renewal in American education.

"In 1983, we seek four major education goals," he said, listing two of the four as the school prayer amendment and tuition tax credits.

"God never should have been expelled from the American classroom," Reagan said to the applause of the assembled senators and representatives.

Bills on school prayer and the tax credits were submitted by the administration to Congress last year but made little progress.

The other education goals he mentioned were establishment of education savings accounts that would give tax breaks to parents who save for their children's college educations and the upgrading of mathematics and science instruction.

Unmentioned was an administration proposal to allow local school districts to establish an educational voucher system using federal school aid for the poor known as Title I.

Image Talk

A discussion of information in the new "Image" magazine, dealing with devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, will be part of a program given by Father Benedict Ehmann, 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 11, at Holy Apostles Church. The evening will begin with Mass and also will include benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO MAKE RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Father Tom Valenti Director of Vocations 1150 Buffalo Road Rochester, New York 14624

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