

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Pages Wednesday, May 18, 1983 35 Cents



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

The Sisters Garity have served their religious community for a total of 237 years. From left, Sisters Mary Helen, M. Bernadette, Mark and Dorothy.

## 237 Years of Service

# The Sisters Garity Of the Order Charity

Four sisters, by both blood and religious consecration, gathered in Rochester last week; and among the four are 237 years of service as Sisters of Our Lady of Charity.

The four are Sisters Mark, Mary Helen, M. Bernadette and Dorothy Garity. Perhaps the best known here is Sister Mary Helen, superior of the community at Holy Angels Convent on Winton Road.

Born in 1904, Sister Mary Helen entered the Buffalo convent of her community in 1922 and received the habit in 1923. She first came to Rochester in 1932. In 1946 she was named mistress of novices for her congregation, a post she held until her return to Rochester in 1947.

A teacher and school principal for many years, Sister Mary Helen was elected superior of the Rochester community in 1954.

A delegate for many years to her congregation's national chapter meetings, she was elected president of the North American Federation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity in 1967 and served at the headquarters in Wisconsin Dells until 1971. She hosted the first international meeting of the order in the United States while she was president.

She returned to Rochester in 1971 and has twice been elected local superior.

In 1957, under her leadership, the community built the

brick complex on Winton Road as a convent-school-administration building. Part of the complex is now Hope Lodge for cancer patients and Prime Time Adult Day Care Center for the elderly.

Sister Mark received the religious habit in 1921 and made her vows in 1923. She worked for several years in the altar bread department.

In 1931, she went to Saskatchewan, Canada, to help establish a new foundation for the order, and later returned to her Buffalo convent as supervisor of the girls.

In 1937, she first came to Rochester and worked in the girl's kitchen.

After a period of ten years again in the Buffalo community, Sister Mark has returned to Rochester where she has continued to help with secretarial work.

Sister M. Bernadette received the habit in 1923. She was a teacher, and for 32 years, principal of Our Lady of Charity School in Buffalo. In 1956, she was named to a four-year post helping the Pittsburgh convent. She was appointed secretary of the national body and spent two years in Rome in preparation for an international chapter, held in 1969. She was elected superior of the Buffalo community in 1971 and holds that post today. Her responsibilities include the administration of a campus with 17 buildings, including a school, a large gymnasium, a

chapel, social services department and a facility for the elderly.

Sister Dorothy made her vows in 1928. After serving as supervisor of the girls for several years, she spent a year in the community's Dallas, Texas foundation as a teacher. During that time she also gave English lessons to the Mexican Sisters. She has also worked in the Hot Springs,

Ark., community, teaching in their school.

She was a teacher and librarian in Buffalo for 47 years until her retirement last year. She continues, however, to tutor and do other work in the community. In addition, Sister Dorothy is an artist and poet of some note. Several of her works hang in convents, chapels and private homes.

## Becket Changing Location, Program

The Becket Hall Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to recommend changes in the present program of the college-seminary residence for diocesan priesthood candidates. Bishop Matthew H. Clark has accepted its recommendations to become effective in September 1984.

On Monday, May 9, the trustees voted to continue the present four-year Becket Hall program unchanged at its location on the St. John Fisher College campus during the 1983-84 academic year. However, during that year a search committee will be looking for a new home. The program is expected to be at a Rochester site that will easily enable students to commute to area colleges.

In another change, beginning in September 1984, freshmen will no longer be admitted to the program. It will become a residence for college juniors and seniors

and post-college-age men also considering a diocesan priesthood vocation.

However, freshmen accepted for the 1983-84 academic year will not be affected. "The new residence program will provide a spiritual atmosphere and community life to assist those men who are discerning the call to the priesthood," said Father Thomas Valenti, diocesan director of vocations. "This new residence will no longer be considered a seminary, but rather a pre-seminary program offered by the Vocation Office to prepare men for admission to a seminary for the study of theology," Farher Valenti said.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan founded Becket Hall as a creative response to priestly formation on the college level. He also served as its first rector. The program admitted its first college sem-

## Conferences On Pastoral Attract 350

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has again called for diocesans to allow the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," to occasion interior renewal, self-examination and reconciliation.

Speaking in recent days to audiences around the diocese, the bishop sounded this note; and drawing attention to the document's title, said, "If we're not challenged now, then we'll never have peace."

Also last week, diocesan leaders began the process of working out the mechanisms through which the letter will be implemented here.

Two conferences, one in Elmira and the other in Rochester, drew a total of nearly 350 full-time ministers

to a day-long discussion of the letter and its implications for a number of areas.

The meetings were a joint effort of the Ministry to Priests program and the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission.

According to Father James Schwartz, director of Ministry to Priests, the double convocation was also the first such event designed for all diocesans in full-time ministry, clerical, religious and lay.

The keynote speaker was Father Frank Winters, SJ, a member of the faculty of Georgetown University and a consultant to the bishops on the drafting of their pastoral.

Father Winters discussed the theological foundations

Continued on Page 4



Father Winters discusses moral issues surrounding nuclear deterrence.

**Five Diocesan Priests Note 25th Jubilees Page 18**