COURIER-JOURNAL

Mercy Report

School Predicts Eventful Year

1984-85 promises to be a challenging, exciting year, said, Sister Judith Heberle, RSM, principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Beginning her second year as chief administrator of Rochester's 56-year-old Catholic secondary school for girls, Sister Judith noted her pride in last year's accomplishments and said she anticipates continued growth and success for this school year.

Mercy will continue to expand its three-level computer education program this fall, and is adding computers for administrative use. According to Sister Jacqueline DeMars, director of academics. Mercy is briskly keeping

pace with student computer needs, from basic literacy to advanced computer -courses. To facilitate this program, the school has designated Lynda Miro, a faculty member as Mercy's computer coordinator.

In other academic areas, Mercy is offering an applied economics course for the first time this fall. Twenty-six seniors will learn the principles of management and production during this one-semester course. Junior Achievement has provided the curriculum and an IBM computer to

make the offering possible. Sister Nancy Kelly, new athletic director at Mercy (replacing varsity basketball coach Shirley Hess as director), looks to another championship season for many Mercy sports.

Last year, Mercy teams clinched Private-Parochial League championships in four varsity sports: basketball, tennis, baseball and track. They also grabbed the Section 5 championship in basketball. Except for three graduating seniors, the whole Monarch starting lineup will be on hand for the 1984-85 basketball season, including all-stars Kelly Land and Anne Peacock, both seniors this year.

Shirley Hess, Times-Union 'coach of the year," will return as varsity basketball coach.

In addition, Mercy's administration and faculty will be focusing on their Middle States Evaluation, an indepth self study and review

Keeping Communications Open Is Aim of Principals' Meetings

By James G. McAuliffe As another school year is about to begin, the principals of the Rochester diocesan parochial schools have been preparing for weeks for the opening day of school. The principals have a special meeting planned with the superintendant of schools and general education staff Aug. 27 to discuss plans and special programs outlined for the school year.

New principals have severat these meetings.

communications between the

principals and staff, with an opportunity to discuss major projects that are being implemented in the diocesan school system.

It is through this group that the diocesan school policies are discussed and set, and direction for planning and self-studies are determined.

These meetings have done a great deal to strengthen the educational system that extends to 75 elementary and eight secondary schools throughout the diocese.

by a visiting committee of educators. This evaluation is necessary to renew Mercy's accreditation. It takes place every 10 years. Enrollment is described as

Wednesday, August 15, 1984

steady again this year. The anticipated Mercy student body is 775.

As is traditional, the administration and faculty will begin the school year with a day of reflection and enrichment. This year's guest speaker will be Sister Mary Sullivan, RSM, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Sister Mary will discuss the qualities of excellent teachers and focus on the special characteristics of schools sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

The school year theme is, "My spirit soars... and reaching out I touch the hand of God.'

Each year the campus ministry board selects a theme for the students to reflect on and live by. The theme is illustrated for use on printed materials throughout the year.

Sister Judith also found a similar theme for the coming year:

"As I watched the opening ceremony for the Olympics, I was reminded of our philosophy when I heard the song, 'Reach out and touch somebody's hand./ Make this world a better place if you can.' This is one of our goals - this year and every year.'

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One of the greatest means of communication began in the diocese 17 years ago, and has continued to evolve into a strong working assembly of principals.

scenes in the workings of the diocesan educational system.

Throughout the diocese every principal attends a monthly regional meeting under the egis of the Principals' Association. All aspects of education are discussed at the association's meetings, held in seven areas of the diocese Some of the main discussions involve New York State PEP tests and the standardized testing program, new state laws and regula-

al meetings scheduled to give them direction as well as necessary help and support for the beginning of the new school year. These are only a few of the many meetings that take place behind the

tions, new curricula with heavy emphasis on the religion curriculum, topics for in-service training of teachers, education trends and many other factors of educa-

tion. One member from each regional association attends a second monthly meeting, this of the Principals' Federation. The superintendent of schools and the general education staff are also present

This allows for two-way

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