

# Mercians Open Chapter With Superior's Election

The Sisters of Mercy of Rochester will open Chapter 1985 with the election of their superior general on Sunday, March 3, at the motherhouse.

The Mercy superior general serves a four-year term and may be re-elected for a second term. All professed sisters are allowed to vote.

The current superior is Sister Jean Marie Kearse.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside during the election.

According to a press release from the order, Chapter 1985 will then reconvene on May 18 and the week of Aug. 3-7 to deal with "congregational governance."

During this year's Chapter, the order will also

examine "the role of leadership in religious congregations in the '80s and '90s, the mode for election of leadership within the congregation, and the possibility of a formal general assembly to provide a broad base of collegial participation in decision making."

There are elected delegates to the Mercy Chapter, but the whole congregation is invited to be present and participate in the sessions.

Sister Ann Miller is chairperson of the Chapter. Delegates are Sisters Celeste Boyle, Mary Bernard Butts, Marie Joseph Crowley, Beatrice Curran, Jacqueline DeMars, Barbara DiFiore, Maureen Flood, Noreen Graney, Barbara Hamm, Judith Heberle, Mary

Walter Hickey, Elizabeth Hughes, Rita Kaufman, Jean Marie Kearse, Jane Kenrick, Carolyn Knipper, Kathleen Ann Kolb, Janet Korn, Joanne Lappetto and Anne Marie Lennon.

Also Sisters Joan McAteer, Mary Perpetua McHale, Rene McNiff, Barbara Moore, Gaye Moorhead, Miriam Nugent, Katherine Ann Rappl, Mary Dominic Reichart, Mary Nathanael Seitz, Sheila Stevenson, Mary Sullivan, Patricia Switzer, Virginia Taylor, Mary Edwardine Weaver and Nancy Whitley.

Alternates are Sisters Mary Wintish, Gratia L'Esperance and Dolores Ann Stein.



## Six Complete Course

Six youths at St. Joseph's Villa of Rochester enrolled in and successfully completed a ten-week program in small engine repair and was sponsored by Greece Youth Services' NYPUM (National Youth Program Using Minibikes). The program taught how to diagnose and repair minibikes, as well as providing NYPUM with more working vehicles. Jody Ferrara, Villa recreation therapist, supervised the program with Ed Minardo of Greece Youth Services.

# Social Ministry Names Associate Directors

Father John Firpo, who will become diocesan director of Social Ministry in June, has named three associate directors -- Maurice Tierney for Catholic Charities, Mary Heidkamp for Justice and Peace and Sister Clare Roland SSJ for Chaplaincy Services. All will work at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road.

With Father Firpo they will form a diocesan staff which with the Social Ministry board will coalesce regional offices and link them collectively to the diocesan church and society.

"As diocesan staff, we will provide the necessary leadership which will enhance and invigorate our regional offices," Father Firpo said.

Ms. Heidkamp is currently



Standing, from left, Father Firpo and Maurice Tierney; Seated, from left, Sister Clare Roland SSJ and Mary Heidkamp.

diocesan director of Justice and Peace. She came to

Rochester in 1980 from Providence where she was diocesan coordinator of the Social Ministry Resource Unit.

Sister Clare, director of Chaplaincy Service since 1980, has 15 years of diocesan experience in administration and personnel.

Tierney has been director of Catholic Charities for eight years and previously was associated with United Ways throughout the country.

"For the past two years there have been fine efforts to prepare for the Genesee Valley Regional Office and the diocesan board," Tierney said. "The seeds for this regional office and diocesan board were planted as far back as 1978 when the Catholic Charities board approved the recommendations set forth in the plan 'Catholic Charities of the Future.'"

"I am delighted that the first priority of our efforts in developing the plans for the Genesee Valley Regional Office (Monroe and Livingston counties) and diocesan board is integrity in offering selfless service to the people, according to the traditions of our diocesan church and particular agency."

### Discussions Offered

"Conversations: Faith and the Marketplace," a series of open discussions on daily worklife, is offered at 12:10 p.m., Tuesdays at Old St. Mary's rectory, downtown. Members of the business community are welcome, and are asked to bring their own lunch. Beverages will be provided.

Fr. Albert Shamon

Word for Sunday



## Covenant: A Pact With God

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 1:12-15. (R1) Gn. 9:8-15. (R2) 1 Pt. 3:18-22.

The theme of the first readings of the Lenten Sunday Masses this year is that **Covenant**. Covenant is a pact between God and man -- something like the marriage vows two persons make to love each other until death. In a covenant, of course, the parties are not equal -- God is God! In making a covenant, it is God who always takes the first step, like a man proposing to a girl. His choice is determined not by the goodness of the covenant-spouse, but by His own goodness. He takes people as they are; and, by offering His love, He invites them to become His chosen people, loved and blessed beyond all other people.

In the Old Testament God made four covenants: one with man before sin (with our first parents); and three with man after sin (with Noah, Abraham and Moses). These covenants were a preparation for the last covenant -- the New covenant (made through Jesus).

The first covenant after man's sin was with Noah (Feb. 24). God called Noah, saved him and demanded nothing except that Noah tell men murder and immorality are wrong.

When this covenant ended in Babel, God called Abraham and made a second covenant with him (March 3). This time He demanded a bit more: He demanded faith!

Because Abraham was faithful, God made a third covenant with Abraham's descendants, through Moses at Mt. Sinai. This time He demanded still more -- that their faith express itself in a way of life patterned on the Ten

Commandments (March 10).

Now each covenant had a sign, like wedding rings.

That with Noah was a bow (rainbow) in the clouds. The bow was the ancient weapon of war. By no longer aiming the bow toward earth, God demonstrated that His anger against sinful man was appeased.

The sign of the covenant with Abraham was Isaac: the sign God would give Abraham a posterity. But lest man make a fetish out of signs, God ordered Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

The sign of the covenant with Moses was circumcision: the consecration to God of the wellsprings of life.

But Israel broke her covenant with God. "She added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations." (March 17)

Yet God remained faithful: He sent the prophet Jeremiah. From his own personal experience, Jeremiah understood that the heart of religion is the heart. Israel, like an adulteress, had set her heart on other gods: things and pleasures! She had need not of a new love, but of a new heart. Only God can give a new heart. Jeremiah foresaw a time when God would do this, would make

a new covenant with man -- His last. This covenant would touch man not from the outside, like Law, but from within, like love. "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts" (March 24).

The sign of this new covenant is Jesus. The response demanded is a faith in Jesus that works through love. Baptism is the sacrament of faith, and the Eucharist is the sacrament that makes it possible for faith to work through love.

Thus the second and third readings of the First Sunday of Lent speak of baptism and its call to fidelity in times of temptation. Those of the Second Sunday speak of the transfiguration that baptism effects in the soul through grace. The Third Sunday reminds us that baptism makes us temples of God. The Fourth Sunday, that baptism cleanses us from sin. Thus purified and sanctified, baptism demands an obedience that is sacrificial (Fifth Sunday) and unwavering even in the face of the cross (Passion Sunday). And the reward? Resurrection. "He was obedient... therefore God raised him up" (Easter).

(We suggest you cut out this overview of the Lenten Sunday readings to guide you in grasping more fully the meaning of the New Testament or Covenant.)

## Our Tabasco Mission

### Those Who Have Served

#### SUMMER MISSION

- Marilyn Bennet
- Sister Claire Brown SSJ
- Sister Carol Cimino SSJ
- Barbara Fagan
- Father John Firpo
- Thomas Gowan
- Mary Heidkamp
- Sister Magdalena Kellner SSJ
- The Knapp family --
- Thomas and Germaine
- Matthew, Maria, Elizabeth and Mark
- Walter Lalar
- Jim Lund
- Sister Mary Ann Mayer SSJ
- Amy McDonald
- Marianne Misserandino
- Sister Mary Lou Mitchell SSJ
- Sister Susan Nowak SSJ
- Sister Marilyn Pray SSJ
- Michael Santantonio
- Martha Thompson
- Mary Thompson
- Paul Thompson
- Father Paul Tomasso
- Peter Voekl
- Sister Margaret Mary Wintish RSM
- David Young
- Mary Elizabeth Young

#### LIAISON ACTIVITIES

- Dr. Jose Betancourt
- Bishop Matthew H. Clark
- Father Charles Mulligan
- Dr. Evelio Perez-Albuerne
- Lourdes Perez-Albuerne

#### PERMANENT MISSION

- Father James Callan
- Father Paul Freemesser
- Mark Kavanaugh
- Father Neil Miller
- Sister Marilyn Pray SSJ
- Yolanda Ramos
- Valerie Smith
- Father Paul Tomasso

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Vol. 96, No. 21 February 20, 1985

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)

Published weekly except week after July 4 and Christmas, by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 35¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$15. Canada and Foreign \$20. Offices: 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

## Women Plan Talk on Downtown

The Women's Coalition for Downtown will meet at noon, Monday, Feb. 25, to hear speakers Errol Frailey and Arthur Richardson on future plans for downtown Rochester with the theme "An Update on the Rochester Downtown Development Corporation."

The meeting, chaired by Sandra Parker, will take place in the third floor meeting room of Lincoln First Tower, Main and Clinton. The public is invited.