



Magalis Percomo, age 9, shares the altar with a younger member of the parish, Michelle Aponte, age 7, in singing "O Jesus Crucificado."

Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal



Magalis Percomo (left) and Jeannet Nunez, playing the guiro, help in singing the chorus.

Rosario de Cruz de Mayo

Mount Carmel Church Celebrates the Rosary

Even though it was a wet and rainy evening, the spirits were not dampened by the bad weather. About 75 parishioners from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel gathered together on Friday, May 31 for a rosary service to celebrate the ending of the month of Our Lady.

In keeping the tradition alive, folk group members were accompanied by younger members of the congregation so that the songs could be passed on to the next generation. Along with musical director Pedro Nunez on the cuatro, a bass, acoustical guitars and a guiro rounded out the music.

As the music filled the church, the haunting melodies of the Sorrowful Mysteries were canted by the folk group members. The congregation repeated the chorus in resounding harmony that left one entranced in meditative tranquility.

With the true spirit of the church, many of the members of Mt. Carmel traveled to Newark, Geneva, and Lyons over the Memorial Day weekend to share their feelings about the rosary to others in those communities. About 125 to 150 people attended these gatherings, and there was a shared supper following the prayers.



Kanisha Kolina, 5, pauses a moment to listen to the cantors.

Assumption Honors Departing Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart

Twenty-nine years of service to a local parish drew to a close Sunday, June 2, when the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart ended their ministry to Assumption of Our Lady in Fairport. Father John Norris, pastor, described the departure celebration that day as "an occasion for nostalgia — for memories — for recalling happy, sad, serious moments from the past 29 years."

The Mission Helpers, an order specializing in catechetical training, came to Assumption in 1956 at the invitation of former pastor, the late Father Kelly. It was Father Kelly's idea that a school of religion for public school students should be established close to the public schools its students attend. Today, that school of religion has about 1,100 students who walk or are bused once a week to religion classes from their regular schools through the state release-time program, according to Mission Helper Sister Donna Fannon.

The Mission Helpers, who number fewer than 200 nationwide, were established in Baltimore in 1890 by Mary Frances Cunningham to provide religious instruction to that city's Black children. Their mission today remains the same — to provide religious training in areas where the religious presence is minimal. This, in part, is the reason the three Mission Helpers stationed at Assumption are moving on, Sister Donna noted shortly before departing for Baltimore on June 5. "Rochester is a city with two large orders right in the city," she said, referring to the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy. The Mission Helpers' work, she continued, "should be in places where the religious presence is less."

Sister Donna's new assignment is in Wheeling, W.Va., where she will be doing parish work in a poor area. Sister Judy Waldt, a novice, is returning to the order's motherhouse in Baltimore for a year of study, and Sister Gemma Bambrick is moving to Grand Junction, Colo., where she will do parish visitation. Sister Marcia Foote is leaving the order and will become director of religious education at St. Pius X Church, Chili.

Although Sister Donna said she and the other sisters will miss their friends in

Fairport, they feel they have completed their work there. She said that over the years, the Mission Helpers in Fairport have trained about 80 volunteer religious education teachers. "We're leaving the parish in good hands," she said. "The place is not going to crumble just because we're leaving here."

Nonetheless, she said the move is not an easy one. It is difficult for the order as a whole to leave Fairport because many of the sisters who have been assigned there over the years have strong attachments to the area, she said, noting that to an order that is less than 100 years old, a commitment of nearly 30 years in one place is a strong bond.

Sister Mary Ita, national president of the order, noted that the sisters' work at Assumption is being taken up by the new head of youth ministry, Permanent Deacon Steve Carroll. Deacon Carroll will be working in tandem with his wife Barbara, who is coordinator of Christian Initiation.

Sister Mary Ita said that the departure of the sisters is paving the way for such ministry teams of lay people in the church — for clerics, religious and laity to work together in a new model of parish life, with each group gaining equal recognition. "If we as Mission Helpers have enabled that to happen, then we are contributing to the new structures in the church."



Sitting among their belongings ready for departure are, from left to right, Sisters Marsha Foote, Judy Waldt, Gemma Bambrick, and Donna Fannon.

Unique Care
Provides hourly aides or live-ins. References, Bonded, Insured and reasonable.
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Contact
Florence Johnson
442-1700

COUPON

KAKE CORNER Cakes For All Occasions

- FIRST COMMUNION
- GRADUATION
- CONFIRMATION
- BAPTISMAL

Whipped cream or buttercream frosting w/choice of filling. Strawberry, custard, pineapple, lemon or chocolate.
Expires 7/31/85

Full Line of Wedding Cakes
1688 CLIFFORD AVE.
Near Goodman **482-1133**

COUPON

Van Zile TRAVEL SERVICE

LAST CALL FOR...
AN IRISH SPREE
Aug. 8-17, 1985
Come along with Katie Shelley

On her 5th visit to the Emerald Isle. Enjoy a perfect 10 day tour of the most enchanting parts of southern Ireland!

\$1186⁰⁰
FROM ROCHESTER
CALL FOR DETAILS

223-3050 420 Cross Keys Office Park Fairport
244-8300 1786 Monroe Ave. Rochester
538-2191 3 East Ave. Caledonia