

## Sisters of Mercy celebrate 20 years of service in Chile

On Christmas Eve, 1965, four Sisters of Mercy arrived in Santiago, Chile, to found the Rochester congregation's Latin American mission. Among them was Sister Janet Korn, who this week will travel to Santiago with a diocesan delegation to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the mission on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Accompanying Sister Janet will be Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Sister Jean Marie Kearse, superior general of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, and Sister Judith Heberle, immediate former superior general of the congregation.

Responding to the appeal of Pope John XXIII, who in 1961 asked religious congregations to send missionaries to Latin America, Sister Mary Bride Claire, then superior general of the local congregation, was the first to travel to Chile in February, 1965, to investigate sites for a mission foundation. Although invited to join the anniversary delegation, Sister's health has caused her to decline the journey.

San Luis Parish, a "very poor" community of 40,000 in Santiago, was the first site chosen for the sisters' mission work. From there, they branched into San Andres and Santa Catalina parishes. Today, Sisters Janet Caulfield, Joanne Deck, Jane Kenrick, Anne Marie Mathis, Margaret Mungovan and Kay Schwenzer are still present in San Luis and also work in Santa Ana and Emanuel

parishes. They are joined by three Australian Sisters of Mercy and one Mercy sister from Brooklyn, N.Y.

The Sisters of Mercy participate in a variety of pastoral activities in the Diocese of Santiago. Their ministries include catechetics and work with youth, sacramental preparation, parish administration and in general, the building up of the local Christian community. The sisters have also founded a health clinic, a laundry cooperative and a beauty school and salon to assist Chileans in becoming economically self-sufficient.

A primary aim of the 15 Rochester Sisters of Mercy who have served as missionaries over the years has been to enable local lay people to become church leaders and minister to their own people. In the course of this effort, one native Chilean, Sister Graciela Lagos Donoso, has professed her first vows in the congregation and three other women are candidates to the order.

Sister Janet Korn, who after 16 years returned from Chile in 1981, calls the congregation's ministry "one which places us in the midst of the lives of the poor."

"Our hope is to be able to walk with them in their journey through life — to accompany them, to suffer and laugh with them," she said. "The poor of Chile have always been a call to conversion for us who come from such an affluent society. They call us to share."

The people's economic suffering is compounded by the political situation in Chile, especially since the coup of 1973, Sister Janet added. "This work involves ministry to families of those who have been tortured or who have disappeared or those whose lives are threatened," she said.

In a letter to the congregation from Chile dated December 1, Sister Jane Kenrick called the political situation there "very serious."

"The people cry out for work, justice and democracy, but it only falls on deaf ears. Every day the people fear less and the military presence and oppression are increased," she wrote.

Sister Jane described national protests on November 5 and 6, and on November 21,

### Diocese sponsors AIDS conference

An educational conference on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) will be presented for diocesan and parish staff on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at the diocesan Pastoral Center. The conference will be offered in the cafeteria at two times, 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

The conference is being offered as both an educational opportunity and as a forum for the concerns of those who attend, according to Father John Mulligan, director of the Division of Urban Services. Time will be provided for discussion with the presenters.

Dr. William Valenti of Strong Memorial Hospital will discuss the epidemiology of AIDS. The psychosocial issues raised by the disease and local resources and support networks will be described by Jackie Nudd, executive director of AIDS, Rochester.

Dr. Karen Bell and Dr. Robert Wood of the Monroe County Department of Health will speak about the public health issues raised by AIDS. The pastoral implications of

during which the people went to the streets demanding freedom despite the soldiers, who were everywhere. While the demonstrators threw stones, the soldiers fired tear gas bombs and, in some cases, bullets. Approximately 600 people were arrested in the earlier demonstration.

Despite the turmoil, Sister Jane noted that she and the other sisters were anticipating the visit from the Rochester delegation. "We wish all of you could be with us ... but we know you will be with us in spirit," she wrote.

The Sisters of Mercy in Rochester marked the mission's anniversary on Sunday, Dec. 8, with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Clark in the motherhouse chapel.

an AIDS crisis will be addressed by Father Daniel Tormey, director of chaplaincy services at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Staff members of the divisions of Urban Services, Education and Social Ministry, sponsors of the conference, have been invited, as have pastoral office personnel and parish representatives.

### Clarification

To avoid any possible misunderstanding of our story on the first draft of the urban school plan (Courier-Journal, December 5), we would like to clarify our reference to the Interschool Planning Committees on Page 7. These committees, comprised of suburban and urban school leaders, would be asked to develop programs for the curricula of two regional junior high schools at Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady of Good Counsel.



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