



Decades of faithful service to the Church were represented at the Sisters of Mercy jubilarian ceremony Sunday, September 21, at the Mercy motherhouse.

Mercy Days celebration puts spotlight on jubilarian sisters

The Sisters of Mercy of Rochester met for their annual congregational celebration, Mercy Days, on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21, at the order's Blossom Road motherhouse.

The weekends' events included celebrations in honor of the congregation's 22 jubilarians, a Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, a service commissioning sisters for their work in the upcoming year, and a presentation by Sister Jose Hobday.

Jubilarian festivities were the highlight of the weekend's events, particularly for Sister Mary Martha Lavey, who was received into the congregation 70 years ago, on March 25, 1916. A native of Jordan, N.Y., she entered the order from Holy Family Parish, Auburn, and later became the parish school's first principal. In addition, she taught for 49 years in a number of elementary schools throughout the diocese and at Our Lady of Mercy High School. She later assisted for six years in the library and office of St. James Mercy Hospital in Elmira.

Celebrating 60 years in the congregation were Sisters Mary Helen Casey, Mary Adolphine Cooley and Mary Irmina Geyer, all of whom were received into the order on July 10, 1926.

Sister Mary Helen, a native of Elmira, taught in several diocesan schools — St. Cecilia, Elmira; Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School; Mercy High School; St. Ann, Hornell; and St. Patrick, Elmira, where she also served as principal.

Sister Mary Adolphine was born in Holley and entered the congregation from Immaculate Conception, Rochester. She was the principal of St. Thomas the Apostle; St. Mary, Corning; and Our Lady Queen of Peace. She also taught at St. Charles Borromeo, St. James Mercy and Mercy High School. After retiring from teaching, she served as coordinator of the motherhouse and made visitations at St. James Mercy Hospital.

Sister Mary Irmina, who is currently a secretary in the congregation's administration office, taught at Mercy High School; St. John the Evangelist; and St. Ann's, Hornell. She also served the congregation as director of the junior professed sisters and as executive secretary for the congregation's administrative team.

Golden jubilarians — Sisters Mary Leonard Gavin, Mary Kruckow, Mary Veronica Kuhn, Mary Maurice Pearson, Mary Damian Sullivan and Marguerite Whalen — were received into the congregation on May 30, 1936.

Sister Mary Leonard, a Rochester native, was a cook at Mercy High School and the motherhouse for 24 years. She also cooked at St. Mary's Convent, Corning; Cardinal Mooney Convent and St. James Convent.

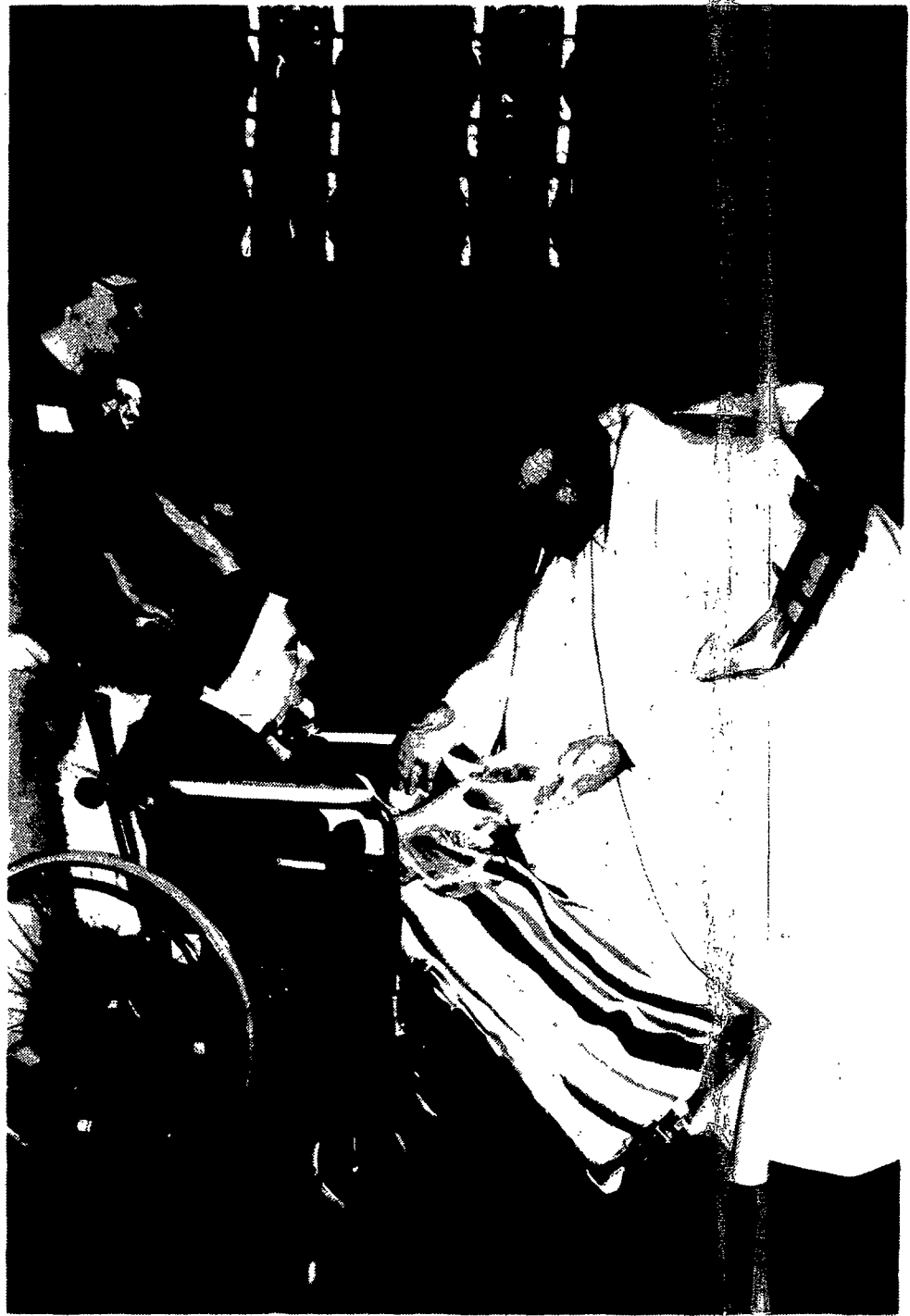
Sister Mary, who was born in Elmira, currently serves as director of parish evangelization at Immaculate Conception Parish, Ithaca. Earlier, she taught at St. John the Evangelist; St. Charles Borromeo; St. Cecilia, Elmira; St. Louis; and St. Mary and St. Vincent, Corning. She also served as principal of St. Mary and St. Vincent and of the Corning Regional Schools. After concluding her teaching career, Sister Mary worked in rural ministry in the Southern Tier and worked as a home health aide.

Sister Mary Veronica was born in Olean and entered the congregation from Hornell. She spent her entire 43-year career at Mercy High School, teaching in the areas of history, social studies and Latin.

Sister Mary Maurice, a Rochester native, has been teaching at Cardinal Mooney High School since 1972. Earlier, she was principal of St. John's, Clyde, and St. Rita, Webster. She also taught at St. John, Clyde; St. John the Evangelist; Holy Cross; St. Andrew; St. Thomas the Apostle; Holy Family; and Mercy Elementary School.

Sister Mary Damian, a native of Gillett, Pa., entered the congregation from St. Mary's, Elmira. She was an English teacher at Mercy High School for 20 years and earlier taught at Holy Family, Auburn; St. Patrick, Owego; St. Charles Borromeo; and St. Joseph, Penfield, where she also served as principal.

Sister Marguerite (earlier known as Sister Mary Richard) was born in Rochester. She is the executive secretary in the congregation's administration office, and has served as motherhouse coordinator. She was principal of St. Thomas the Apostle; St. Cecilia, Rochester; St. John the Evangelist; and St. Louis schools. She also taught at Holy Cross; St. James; St. Charles Borromeo; St. Michael, Newark; and Mercy High School.



Diamond jubilarian Sister Mary Helen Casey offers the gifts to Bishop Matthew H. Clark during the Mass. Behind her is silver jubilarian Sister Miriam Nugent.

Mercy silver jubilarians, who professed their first vows on August 14, 1961, hail from six areas of the diocese. From Corning are Sisters Ruth (Aquinas) Busshaus, teacher at Mercy High; Ann (Davidica) Carapella, vice principal and teacher at Holy Family Junior High in Elmira; and Mary Ann (Emil) Kosakoski, teacher at St. Andrew's.

From the Rochester area are Sisters Marie Joseph Crowley, staff member at Melita House; Carolyn (Marie Walter) Knipper, principal at Holy Cross; Patricia (Tarcisius) Prinzing, public relations and director of the Quality of Work Life Program at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell; Katherine Ann (Benedicta) Rappi, principal of St. Rita, Webster; and Edna (Thomasetta) Slyck, religious education coordinator at St. Catherine of Sienna Parish, Ithaca.

Clyde's silver jubilarian is Sister Anne (Eleanor) Maloy, director of Mercy Center with the Aging.

Hailing from Macedon is Sister Mary (Madeleine) Marvin, pastoral assistant at St. Ann/St. Gregory parishes, Palmyra and Marion.

Elmira's jubilarian is Sister Miriam Nugent, principal of St. Louis, Pittsford. And from Leroy is Sister Virginia (Paulus) Taylor, campus minister at Ithaca College.

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