

Features

Sisters of Mercy celebrate infirmary's 10th anniversary

In the mid-1970s, ailing members of Rochester's Mercy congregation were crowded into small rooms on the second floor of the order's Blossom Road motherhouse. Bathroom facilities were few and inadequate, and the sisters had neither a chapel nor a dining room in which to share their meals.

Because of the structure's age, architects advised against renovating the current quarters, and the sisters decided instead to renovate the second floor of the newer McAuley Junior College wing.

But the congregation had insufficient funds for the \$325,000 project. So the sisters turned for help to the "Mercy family," as the sisters term their many friends throughout the diocese. Pledges to the infirmary campaign exceeded the goal by more than \$150,000, and the new infirmary — renamed Lourdes Hall — was dedicated on December 11, 1977.

The infirmary includes 17 spacious bedrooms, storage facilities, a ramp for transporting sisters, a physical-therapy room and, most importantly, a chapel. "After 10

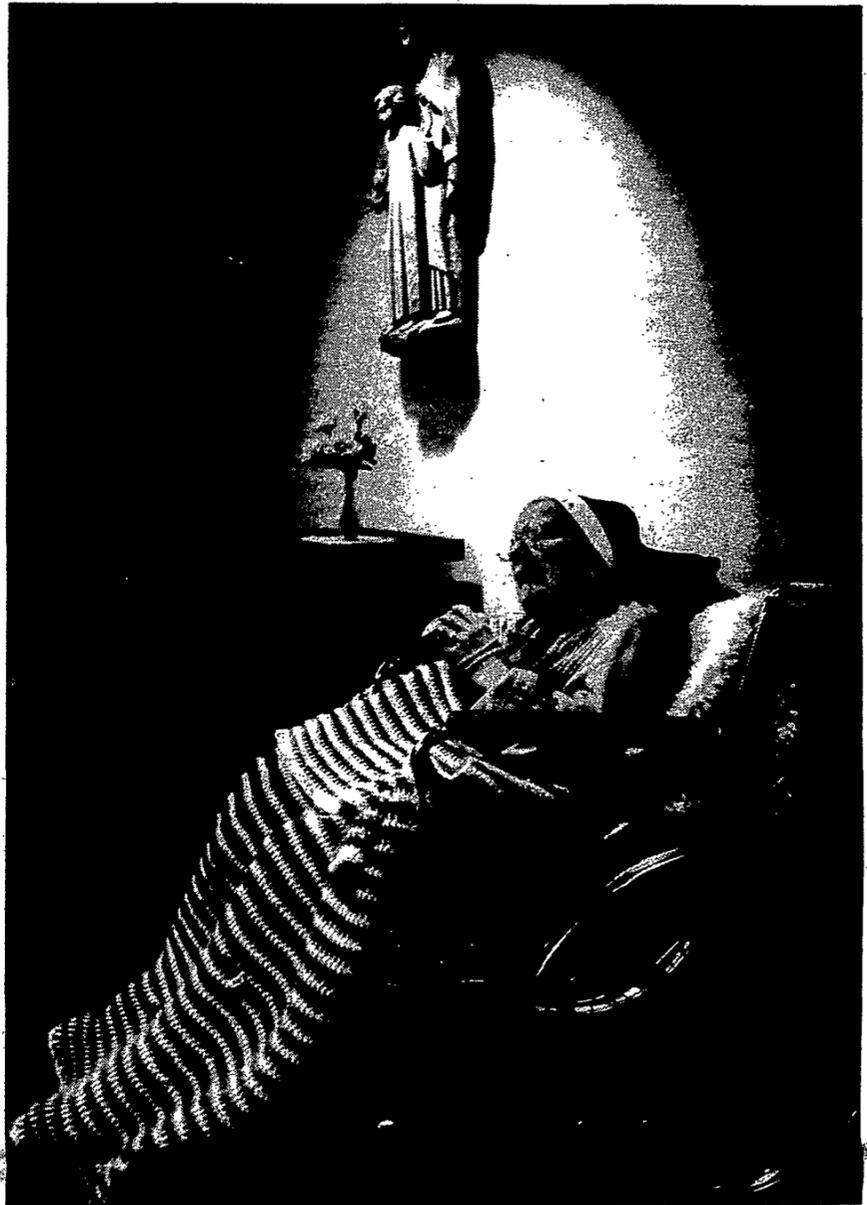
years of its being in existence, we can't say enough about how beautiful and wonderful it is," says Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb, Lourdes Hall director. "This place allows our sisters to live out their lives in as normal a lifestyle as possible ... not in an environment that is totally foreign."

To thank those who helped make the sisters' dreams for the infirmary into reality, the congregation has scheduled an open house for Sunday, Dec. 6, from 2-4 p.m. The public is invited to join the sisters in celebrating Lourdes Hall's 10th anniversary.



Related by blood and community, Sisters M. Constance Casey (left) and M. Helen Casey share a moment together in the Lourdes Hall infirmary.

Bonnie Trafelet/Courier-Journal



The staff at Lourdes Hall endeavors to provide residents with a lifestyle as similar as possible to the way they lived before moving to the infirmary. A large part of the Lourdes Hall regimen, therefore, is attention to the sisters' prayer lives.

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