

## Sister Mary Adolphine Cooley, teacher, Mercy sister for 63 years

Sister Mary Adolphine Cooley, a Sister of Mercy for 63 years and a member of the founding faculty at two diocesan schools, died Friday, March 24, 1989, in Lourdes Hall — the sisters' infirmary at the motherhouse — after a long illness. She was 81.

Sister Cooley was born in Holley, N.Y. in 1907. She entered the Mercy congregation on Dec. 8, 1925, and professed her final vows on Sept. 3, 1931. In 1938, she received a bachelor of arts degree from Canisius College, where she majored in philosophy and minored in Latin.

As a congregational leader, teacher, school administrator and hospital visitor — several of her many roles — Sister Cooley will be remembered as "a warm, witty person, completely dedicated to others," said Sister Mary Ruth Gilligan, a friend and former student of Sister Cooley's.

"Hers was a selfless dedication," added Sister Gilligan, who knew Sister Cooley for nearly 60 years, and said her own vocation to religious life was to a great degree

inspired by Sister Cooley.

Over the years, Sister Cooley "wore several hats," and often carried two full work loads simultaneously. When she was elected to the Sisters of Mercy administrative team as a councilor, one of Sister Cooley's responsibilities was to serve as the motherhouse coordinator from 1961 to 1967.

Sister Cooley was a teacher and school administrator for 37 years. She taught at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Rochester in 1926 and again from 1948 to 1953; Our Lady of Mercy High School from 1928 to 1931; St. Mary's in Corning from 1931 to 1933, 1953 to 1961 and from 1970-71; St. Charles Borromeo from 1933 to 1948; Our Lady Queen of Peace from 1962 to 1964; and St. James from 1967 to 1969.

"Sister Adolphine had a great love for her students and was interested in them long after they had graduated," Sister Marilyn Williams said.

Sister Cooley began working in the admissions office at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell in September, 1969, but left three months later to return to St. Mary's in Corning when two members of the faculty left at the end of the first semester. She was a vice-principal and a seventh/eighth grade teacher from 1970-71.

Sister Cooley was a member of the founding faculty at Our Lady of Mercy High School when it opened in 1928, and of Our Lady Queen of Peace School in Rochester in 1962. She was the first principal at Our Lady Queen of Peace, and held that position while also teaching the second grade.

She again served dual roles as a teacher and part-time principal at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Rochester from 1948 to 1953, and as principal at St. Mary's in

Corning from 1955 to 1961, where she also taught the seventh grade.

Sister Cooley was also a talented musician, teaching singing lessons and directing the children's choir at both St. Charles Borromeo and St. Thomas the Apostle schools from 1933 to 1953. Her clear soprano voice was also familiar in both parishes, where she played the organ.

She returned to St. James Mercy Hospital in 1971 and remained there until 1975, doing visitation work as a member of the hospital's Pastoral Care Department.

Sister Cooley is survived by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Frances Cooley, Rochester; a nephew and five nieces.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Tuesday, March 28, by Father John Firpo, motherhouse chaplain. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

## Buildings

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No matter what offer the committee at St. Philip's accepts, the new tenant will be an organization concerned with education, day care or programs for young people, the pastor said.

Plans to reuse the buildings housing the four other Northeast Quadrant schools slated to close range from speculative to complete. Three schools — Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Annunciation in Rochester, and St. Salome in Irondequoit — will close in June. St. James in Irondequoit will close in June, 1990.

The Oregon-Leopold Day Care Center already rents half of Perpetual Help's school building, according to Father Neil Miller, pastor. Following the school closing, the day care center will rent more space, with the remainder to be used for parish religious education and social functions. The rent paid by the day care center will continue to be used to pay parish bills, Father Miller said.

St. Salome's already operates a day care

center in the school building, according to Angela Fortunato, school principal, and will continue to do so following the school's closing. No other plans for reuse are being considered yet, she said.

Annunciation Parish has made no formal plans for reuse of its school building, but will probably use the building for a pre-kindergarten or day care program, said Ninetta DiBella, a school parent and member of the Northeast Planning Board.

St. James parishioners have made no plans for reuse of their school building because they hope the decision to close it in June, 1990, will be reconsidered, said Sister Theresa Rutty, school principal. Under the Northeast Quadrant Plan, buildings like St. James, which have not been selected to house K-6 programs or any other special programs, should be, "evaluated as possible contingency space to accommodate currently unanticipated future classroom space needs."

Sister Rutty acknowledged that it is unlikely St. James School will remain open past June, 1990. Nonetheless, she said, the possibility exists.

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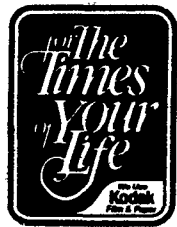
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