

Father Leon Hart, CSB, former Aquinas principal, 64

Father Leon Hart, CSB, a former principal of Aquinas Institute, died Sunday, Jan. 28, 1990, following a stroke that day at the priests' residence of the Assumption College High School in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He was 64.

A native of Rochester, Father Hart graduated from Aquinas in 1943 and

Sr. Mary Meyers, 97

Sister Mary Grata Meyers, SSND, who taught at Holy Family School in Rochester from 1945-71, died Friday, Jan. 19, 1990, in Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, Conn. She was 97.

Born in Buffalo on June 25, 1892, Sister Meyers entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from St. Mary's Church in Buffalo. She was a member of the order for 69 years.

She served at schools in Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania during her 52-year teaching career. In 1945, she came to Holy Family from Fourteen Holy Martyrs School in Baltimore.

Although she retired from teaching in 1971, she lived at Holy Family, Rochester, until 1982. Later that year, she moved to the SSND motherhouse in Wilton, Conn.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, Jan. 23, in the SSND Motherhouse Chapel in Wilton. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.

Donations in memory of Sister Mary Grata Meyers may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn., 06897.

entered the Basilian Fathers novitiate that year. He attended St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto from 1944 to 1948.

He taught in Houston, Texas, from 1948 to 1950, and returned in 1950 to teach at his high school alma mater.

Father Hart then went to Toronto where he studied theology at St. Basil's Seminary from 1951-54. He was ordained in 1953.

The young priest returned to Aquinas in 1954, serving as vice principal from 1956 to 1965, when he took on the position of principal. He oversaw the school's operation until 1970, when he left to work for the diocese for a year in education.

Father Hart returned to Aquinas following his stint with the diocese, and taught there until 1974. That year, he left for Assumption College High School, where

Sr. Anna de Sales Smead; taught for 58 years

Sister Anna de Sales Smead, SSJ, who taught in diocesan elementary and secondary schools for 58 years, died on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. She was 91.

A native of Geneva, N.Y., Sister Anna de Sales entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Francis de Sales Parish, Geneva, in 1916. She earned a teaching certificate from Nazareth Normal School, a baccalaureate degree from Canisius College, Buffalo, and a master's degree from St. Bonaventure University.

Elementary schools in which she taught during her 58-year teaching career included Sacred Heart, Corpus Christi, St.

he served as vice principal until his death. He also served as the superior of the Basilian community there.

Father Hart's sister, Patricia Rebolz of Rochester, remembered his long-held desire to serve in the priesthood. Recalling her brother's fondness for serving as an altar boy throughout his youth, she said a misunderstanding that took place when he was 10 years old was indicative of his deep devotion.

On Holy Thursday, a priest at St. Charles Borromeo Parish ordered her brother and several other altar boys to go home and "not come back again," Rebolz recalled, speculating that her brother interpreted the priest's instructions for that day as a permanent expulsion from the church.

"He was crushed about it," Rebolz

remarked. "The priest ... called my family and asked what had happened to him. They told him. He apologized and said he didn't mean it (the way Leon had understood it)."

Later in life, Father Hart used his priestly vocation to assist those in need, Rebolz recalled, noting that her brother had helped a Vietnamese family resettle in Windsor, and worked with them to find educational assistance.

"The oldest son, a Fulbright scholar, is now a doctor," she said. "The family credits (my brother) with their successful integration into society and showed their gratitude in many ways."

The story of the Vietnamese family was like one of many that the family heard upon Father Hart's death, Rebolz said. "We heard stories of how he visited a (widowed) woman ... every Sunday for over a year, or how he visited another person in the hospital two or three times a week during a prolonged illness," she said.

In addition to Rebolz, Father Hart is survived by his sister Rosemary McIntee of Rochester; and five brothers, John, Edward, Thomas and James, all of Rochester, and David, of Wellsville, Allegany County.

A memorial Mass was held for Father Hart on Saturday, Feb. 3, at St. Charles Borromeo. Memorial donations may be made to the Aquinas Scholarship Fund, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester, 14613.

According to Father Hart's wishes, interment was at Heavenly Rest Cemetery in Windsor.

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