

# Ever-active Sr. Mary Norbert Schlitzer, RSM, at 100

ROCHESTER — Sister Mary Norbert Schlitzer, RSM, who taught in diocesan schools for 38 years and celebrated her 70th jubilee of religious life last year, died Monday, May 28, in Lourdes Hall, the sisters' infirmary at the Mercy motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road. She was 100 years old.



Sister Norbert was born in Rochester June 21, 1889. After her father died, she graduated from high school, took a job as a secretary and remained at home to be with her mother.

When her sister became able to care for their mother, Sister Norbert entered the Mercy congregation on Aug. 15, 1918, at the age of 29. She was received into the novitiate on July 5, 1919, and took her perpetual vows in 1926.

In 1942, she received a bachelor of arts degree in education from St. Bonaventure University, with minors in English and philosophy.

Given a choice between pursuing music — she greatly enjoyed playing the piano — and teaching, Sister Norbert chose teaching. "I loved teaching," she said in a 1989 interview in the *Catholic Courier*. "I loved the children."

She taught at a number of diocesan schools through nearly four decades: Mt. Carmel, St. Mary's, St. Andrew's, St. Charles, Holy Cross, St. Salome's, and St. John the Evangelist, all in Rochester; and St. John's, Clyde.

Sister Norbert retired from teaching in

1960 due to her age and a hearing loss, but she continued to do typing and office work in the congregation's Catherine McAuley College before it ceased operations in 1970. She had been living at Lourdes Hall since 1977.

"Sister Norbert's ready, welcoming

## Fr. Albinus Lesch, Auburn native

AUBURN — A memorial Mass for Father Albinus (Raymond Francis) Lesch, CP, will be offered at 12:05 p.m. on Thursday, June 14, at St. Mary's Church, 15 Clark St.

Father Lesch died on Christmas Day, 1989, in West Hartford, Conn.

The son of the late Frank J. and Mary (Walsh) Lesch, he was a graduate of St. Mary's School and Auburn High School. Father Lesch attended St. Andrew's Seminary for one year before entering the Passionist Congregation. He was ordained by Cardinal Richard Cushing on May 4, 1941.

After serving for several years as director of studies at a Passionist seminary, Father Lesch became an Air Force chaplain in 1945. He later served in Alaska for two years before he was discharged. After leaving the armed forces, Father Lesch was assigned to the missions in the Philippine Islands. When he turned 70, he retired and lived in a monastery in the Philippines.

While living at the monastery, his duties included the celebration of two or three Masses every Sunday.

Father Lesch last visited St. Mary's in 1987. He returned to the Philippines

smile was a trademark," said Sister Kathleen Kolb, director of Lourdes Hall. "She was always busy making some hand craft or another. She had a philosophy of life that accentuated keeping your mind active."

Even in her 70s, Sister Norbert started

thereafter, but failing health brought about his return to the United States. He spent his final years at monasteries in Connecticut and New Jersey.

Father Lesch was pre-deceased by his sister, Mary, who died on Christmas Day, 1980. He is survived by his brother, Dr. Gerard Lesch, of Hilton Head, S.C.; one niece and six nephews.

## Laura C. Maier, longtime OLPH parishioner

ROCHESTER — Nine priests celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial May 15, 1990, for Laura C. Maier, a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for more than 50 years. Mrs. Maier died Saturday, May 12, 1990, at the age of 81.

Among the celebrants for the liturgy — which took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help — were her son, Father Paul Maier, of Martinsville, Va.; a nephew, Father James Fritzen, of Phoenix, N.Y.; and Auxiliary Bishop David E. Foley, of Richmond, Va.

A native of Syracuse, Mrs. Maier was a member of such organizations as the Catholic Central Union, the Kolping Society, Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of St. John #45, and the OLPH Senior group.

studying Spanish, Sister Kolb remarked. Asked last year about the challenge of learning a new language so late in life, Sister Norbert told the *Catholic Courier* one should "Never let your mind be idle."

"Sister Norbert has blessed us with her presence, her talents and her wonderful Mercy spirit," said Sister Kathleen Milliken, a member of the Sisters of Mercy Council. "(It) seemed as if she could go on forever."

Sister Norbert is survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Norbert was celebrated Wednesday, May 30, in the motherhouse chapel. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

She was pre-deceased by her husband, August M. Maier. In addition to her son and nephew, Mrs. Maier is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and Peter Ciavarrri; a son, Thomas, of Rochester; five grandchildren, Nancy, Paul, Tim, Jeffrey and Daniel Ciavarrri, all of Rochester; two brothers, Art and Charles Schemel, both of Syracuse; two sisters, Mrs. Herman (Irene) Fritzen, and Mrs. Arthur (Mary) Haver, both of Syracuse; and a sister-in-law, Margaret Maier, of Rochester.

Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Donations in memory of Mrs. Maier can be made to: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1089 Joseph Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14621.

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