

Mercy sisters have made mark in diocese

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

This afternoon I experienced one of the many rewarding events on my annual calendar — the celebration of Mercy Day. Each year around this time, our Sisters of Mercy gather at their motherhouse on Rochester's Blossom Road to celebrate their life together; to honor those sisters who are celebrating the silver, golden and diamond jubilees of their religious professions; and to formalize in gentle ritual the sisters' commitments to their respective ministries for the next 12 months.

The celebration consisted of two principal parts: the eucharistic liturgy, during which the sisters renewed their ministerial commitments, and a festive dinner. At the dinner, the community saluted their jubilarians and welcomed the reflections offered by representative jubilarians.

All portions of the day were most enjoyable. Some of the elements I recall in a particular way just now are the joyful faith among the sisters and their associates; beautiful music; gracious hospitality; a sense of friendship and belonging; a high level of commitment to one another and to the whole church; and abundant laughter. I

always find Mercy celebrations to be filled with joy and to be most relaxing.

Additionally, I am ever aware at such celebrations of the enormous contribution the Sisters of Mercy now make and have made to the people of this region for more years than our diocese has existed. In the 1850s, when we were still part of the Diocese of Buffalo, these daughters of Catherine McCauley were doing the works of mercy in this area.

This is not the time to review all of that history, but let me illustrate the contributions the sisters make to our life each day by mentioning the contacts I had with them this week as I went about my own ministry.

Through the week I met with our Stewardship Council and with the executive board of St. Bernard's Institute. I presided at the exciting blessing and prayer service that formally launched the new Northeastern Junior High School. In addition, I met with personnel from our Department of Education, our Diocesan Pastoral Council and all of our regional coordinators, and hosted a social gathering for the members of the Bishop's Commission on Schools. Sisters of Mercy make significant contributions to each of these works, and they devote time, energy and enormous talent to many other works and ministries that enrich the life of our local

church.

As I indicated in my column last week when I wrote about my experiences in Selma, Ala., religious life has changed notably during the past 50 years. Some of that change, in my opinion, would have occurred as a result of the shifts that took place in our culture during those years. But most of the change came about because women religious — perhaps in a manner more committed and courageous than any other single group in the church — responded to the call of Vatican Council II to open themselves to renewal.

The price of their response has often been high, but our sisters have been willing to pay it, and we are all beneficiaries of their generosity. I know that I owe them a great deal for the lessons they have taught me about courage, freedom, love for the church and trust.

To be with our sisters today was an opportunity to remember all of those gifts



once again, and to thank God — and our sisters — for them.

Peace to all.

DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS



Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointment, effective Oct. 1, 1990.

Father Kevin E. McKenna from doctoral studies in canon law at St. Paul's University in Ottawa to canonical consultant to the bishop and judge in the marriage tribunal, with residence and weekend assistance at Holy Ghost Church in Gates.

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Leadership Days set at three regional sites

ROCHESTER — The Diocese of Rochester's annual Leadership Days of training and enrichment for people in parish ministry will take place at the following locations this fall: Thruway Marriott, Rochester, on Saturday, Sept. 29; Holiday Inn, Elmira on Saturday, Oct. 13; and Holiday Inn, Waterloo on Saturday, Oct. 27.

The theme of the conference is: "Our Commitment: Radiating Christ's Love." Each program, which is open to the public, will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The registration fee is \$18.

Nearly 70 workshops will be offered during the conference days. The workshops are designed to provide skills training for those on parish pastoral councils and in other parish pastoral ministries.

"The focus of this year's workshops comes out of the diocese's Commitment to Ministry process that was concluded in the

spring of this year," said Deacon Claude Lester, diocesan director of parish services and coordinator of the Leadership Day conferences. "The workshops support the parish goals as reflected in the Commitment to Ministry reports. These are days the people of the diocese have shaped."

Commitment to Ministry was a two-year process intended to strengthen local parish leadership; to educate people for changes in parishes because of the declining number of priests in the diocese; and to enable parish leaders to assume joint responsibility for shaping their futures.

Deacon Lester noted that for the first time workshops will be offered on liturgy planning, evaluating the condition of parish buildings and developing a plan for short- and long-term maintenance needs.

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CENACLE OFFERS SPECIAL EVENTS

Oct. 4 Communications Workshop for Married couples.

Find growth in your relationship by improving your communication skills.
7:00 - 9:00p.m. - given by Robert and Phyllis Long.

Oct. 4 How Do I Love Myself?

Final of 4 week series. 7:00 - 9:00p.m. given by Ann Maloney, M.S.W.

Oct. 8 Womens Voices from the past speak to us today.

1st of a 3 part series. "The Mamie Papers" - The development of a relationship between a Boston socialite and a woman living in poverty. 7:00 - 9:00p.m. - given by Sr. Audrie Tilden, r.c.

Oct. 9 Moms & Tots.

A morning for mothers to enjoy some quiet times. Qualified babysitters provided. 9:00 - 11:30a.m. 1st in a series given by Cenacle Sisters.

Oct. 15 Evening of Reflection and Healing.

Hope and Healing for those who have lost a loved one to AIDS. 7:00 - 9:00p.m. - given by Cenacle Sisters and Members of Mending Hearts.

All events are open to men and women of all faiths



Center for Spiritual Renewal
693 East Avenue
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For further information and
reservations please call

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Vant to look "Bootiful" this Halloween?!

Come in for a "spell" and let our Boo Crew outfit you vit von of our costumes for rent or sale.

"Witches" it going to be — Adults or Children ... or both? Check out this year's spooktacular new styles — including that comic detective, the cartoon family, and oh yeah ... those teenage turtle guys.

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