

St. Monica's names Sister Marvin as principal

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, outgoing superintendent of schools for the Rochester diocese, has appointed Sister Mary Marvin, RSM, as interim principal of St. Monica's School. Her appointment to the Genesee Street school became effective Aug. 23.

Sister Marvin replaces Gaynelle Wethers, who resigned as principal in July to become minority affairs director for Nazareth College of Rochester.

A diocesan school teacher and administrator for 25 years, Sister Marvin will serve as St. Monica's principal for one year. The Southwest Quadrant School Board will select a permanent principal for St. Monica's in 1992.

Sister Marvin previously served as a chaplain-intern at Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital for one year. She had been debating whether to seek a full-time chaplaincy position of a return to school administration when she was offered the opportunity at St. Monica's. "It's a challenge," Sister Marvin commented, "but I enjoy a challenge."

Wethers served as principal of St. Monica's from 1984-91. One of her main accomplishments was improving the students' sense of self-worth and community,

Sister Marvin said. In addition to developing scholarship programs for black students, Wethers promoted multicultural approaches to education.

Succeeding Wethers — especially on such short notice — will be difficult, Sister Marvin acknowledged. The Mercy Sister said one of her primary goals will be "to continue what Gaynelle was doing in terms of multicultural education and raising students' self-esteem."

In addition, Sister Marvin said she will focus on continuing academic improvement and boosting students' test scores.

The interim appointment at St. Monica's marks Sister Marvin's second stint as principal of a diocesan school. She had served as principal at St. Thomas the Apostle from 1980-86.

During her tenure there, Sister Marvin became involved with the Urban-Suburban Transfer Program, which enables inner-city students to enroll at suburban schools. Her strong support of the exchange program was one of the reasons she was selected for the position at St. Monica's, noted Sister Joseph Gilmory Russell, SSJ, diocesan assistant superintendent for personnel.

In addition, Sister Marvin taught in various diocesan schools from 1961-80. She earned a bachelor's degree in history from Nazareth College of Rochester in 1972, and a master's degree in educational coun-



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

Sister Mary Marvin, RSM, took over as interim principal of Rochester's St. Monica's School on Aug. 23. Her appointment is to last for one year.

seling from the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio in 1976.

In 1982 she earned a certificate of advanced study in school administration from the State University of New York College at Brockport.

In 1986, she decided to leave education to pursue other interests. She served as pastoral assistant at St. Anne's, Palmyra/St. Gregory's, Marion, before starting her hospital internship in 1990.

Although she had been leaning toward hospital chaplaincy, Sister Marvin said she contacted the Catholic School Office this spring to find out about possible openings.

"I've always enjoyed school work," she noted.

The Mercy sister spent her first week at St. Monica's meeting with parents and students coming to the school to enroll. Sister Marvin said she has also tried to familiarize herself with the school and its staff. On Tuesday, Aug. 27, she met with the faculty to discuss plans for the upcoming school year.

As the school year progresses, the interim principal said she may consider remaining at St. Monica's.

"Right now it's a one-year commitment," Sister Marvin said.

"(But) if I enjoy this year and think I'm doing a good job for the kids and in improving the school, I might think of applying for the (permanent) position."

Bishop Clark unveils six themes for diocesan synod

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark announced Sept. 4 that six general themes have been chosen for the Diocese of Rochester's Seventh Synod. The synod is scheduled to end in October, 1993.

These six themes will form the basis of discussion during the synodal process. Their selection was based on the results of close to 19,000 synod surveys completed this spring by the people of the diocese.

Those themes are:

- How can we as church help strengthen Christian marriage and family life?
- How can we help our parishes be faith-filled, supportive and celebrating communities?
- How can we best help those facing violence, addiction, unwanted pregnancy or terminal illness?
- How can we meet the special needs of youth and young adults, as well as the elderly and those who care for them?
- How can we improve our faith development and evangelization?
- How can we do the work of justice,

combating racism and sexism, poverty, unemployment and the lack of affordable housing and health care?

Six writing committees — one for each theme — are to be named by the end of September, noted Father Joseph Hart, director of the synod. The committees will be composed of lay people, religious and clergy who have some knowledge of the matters being discussed.

Each writing committee will be responsible for submitting a report in its theme by December, 1991. These reports will examine diocesan needs, analyze those needs in light of the Gospel and church teachings, and recommend ways the diocese can meet the needs.

The documents will provide a starting point for discussion of the six themes by parish and community synods, scheduled to begin in the fall of 1992. These local-level synods will be asked to make concrete recommendations about the documents and their themes.

The documents — with the recommendations made at the parish synods — will then go to regional gatherings scheduled to begin in December of 1992, and

ultimately to the diocesan-wide synod session in 1993.

The final recommendations approved at the diocesan synod and by Bishop Clark will form a master plan for the future of the diocese.

According to Father Hart, the 24-member Synod Commission developed the themes from survey information indicating that the diocese was falling short in six areas.

"(The surveys were) a very good reading of where people think we are and where we should be going," Father Hart said. The surveys told the commission what people in the diocese as a whole "thought we were not doing as well with as we should," he added.

Yet some of the needs put forth in the surveys will not be addressed by the synod, Bishop Clark acknowledged. The decision to narrow the potential themes to only six was necessary for practical reasons.

"We cannot do everything in this one synod," Bishop Clark said, "but can only surface the greatest needs as we perceive them, with God's unfailing help, through the voices of those of our people who returned the questionnaire."

The committees charged with writing theme papers also will use the surveys as reference material. Additional materials —

letters and notes — submitted with the surveys — will be available to the writing committees as well. Those who identified themselves in their letters have already or will soon receive acknowledgements, Father Hart observed.

Survey results also will be shared with pastors and parish council presidents in a series of 12 regional meetings scheduled for late September and early October.

"We will give every pastor an entire printout for the diocese and a separate printout for his parish," Father Hart said. "The thought is they might want to do something with them in preparation for the synod."

The parish printouts also may help pastors and the parish council presidents see how the assessments of their parishes compares with those of the diocese, and point out areas in the parishes that might need more attention, Father Hart said.

The synod is scheduled to conclude with a diocesan session at Rochester's Riverside Convention Center Oct. 1-3, 1993.

The final recommendations made at that session and approved by Bishop Clark will then be turned over to a synod implementation commission.

When appointed, that commission will be charged with realizing the synodal recommendations in the diocese.

Daylong health forum to address moral issues of death and dying

ROCHESTER — In conjunction with the Catholic Physicians' Guild and the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild, St. Mary's Hospital is presenting a daylong forum "On Death and Dying." It will take place from 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

According to Dr. Richard Seeger, president of the Catholic Physicians' Guild and coordinator of the event, the conference was originally planned in response to the actions of Dr. Timothy Quill, a Rochester physician.

Dr. Quill has acknowledged that he provided a terminally ill patient with a prescription for barbiturates along with instructions on how large a dose the patient would need to take her life. The patient committed suicide in May, 1990, and Dr. Quill described his actions in an article published this spring in *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

This summer, a Monroe County grand

jury cleared Dr. Quill of any charges of criminal wrongdoing. The State Medical Ethics Board also declared he was not guilty of professional misconduct in connection with the case.

The controversial book *Final Exit* also will be discussed during the forum.

The panel members will be: Dr. Patricia Wesley, assistant clinical professor at Yale University and author of an article in *The New England Journal of Medicine* responding to Dr. Quill's article; Father Jack Healy, O. Carm., a member of the faculty at McQuaid Jesuit High School; Father Russell Smith of the Pope John Paul Center in Boston, Mass.; and Michael Regan, a Rochester attorney.

The forum costs \$12.50, and the registration deadline is Sept. 7.

Checks — payable to St. Mary's Hospital — should be sent to: Marilyn Schreiber, 89 Genesee St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611.

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