

Sisters of St. Joseph mark years of service

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Forty-three Sisters of St. Joseph are celebrating their jubilees this year. The order honored its jubilarians with a liturgy and reception at the SSJ motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., on Sept. 27.

The following is a list of Sisters of St. Joseph celebrating their anniversaries, as provided by the order's Public Relations Office.

Celebrating 75 years

Sister Martina Marie Wahl taught in Rochester Catholic schools for 49 years, including 40 years as a biology teacher at Nazareth Academy. A Rochester native, she entered the congregation in 1915. Sister Wahl made her final profession on Aug. 27, 1921.

Her teaching career began at St. Francis Xavier School, Rochester, where she taught the fourth grade from 1916-17. She later taught third- and fourth-grade students at Nazareth Grammar School in Rochester (1919-23), before moving on to Nazareth Academy to teach biology (1923-49).

In 1949, she became the principal as well as a teacher at St. Anne's School, Rochester. Sister Wahl remained there until 1953, when she returned to Nazareth Academy. She taught at Nazareth until 1967, when she left the classroom to join the office staff at the all-girls' school.

She retired from clerical duties in 1974, but continued to live at the Nazareth Academy Convent until she moved to the St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary at the motherhouse later that year.

Celebrating 60 years

Sister Robertina Finegan taught at schools in all corners of the Rochester diocese. She served at St. Patrick's, Dansville; St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris; St. Stephen's, Geneva; St. Mary's, Waterloo; St. Mary's, and Ss. Peter and Paul's, both in

Elmira; and Holy Apostles, St. Ambrose, Sacred Heart, and St. Joseph's, all in Rochester.

In addition, Sister Finegan served as a remedial teacher at Sacred Heart School, Rochester, and as an administrator for two years at St. Joseph's Villa.

Sister Cecile Berwind obtained five National Science Foundation grants for summer study during a 44-year teaching career in science and mathematics.



In 1934, Sister Berwind began her teaching career at Nazareth Academy, where she remained until 1940. She later taught at Geneva DeSales High School (1940-43, 1956-75), and St. Agnes High School, Rochester, (1943-56, 1975-78).

After leaving the classroom in 1978, Sister Berwind worked in the food service department at St. Agnes Convent (1978-82). Since 1982, she has been performing volunteer clerical work at Nazareth Academy. She currently resides at the Nazareth Academy Convent.

Sister Dorothy Marie Schantz has served in various ministries throughout the diocese over 60 years.

After teaching for four decades, she served in the congregation's altar bread department for 12 years. In addition, she served as pastoral assistant at St. Philip Neri Parish, Rochester, from 1974-75, and as a volunteer at the Mount Carmel Hospice for seven years. She currently lives at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary.

Sister Joseph Andre DeMers served diocesan schools as a teacher or principal for 50 years. Sister DeMers' teaching career included stints at the former St. Patrick's Cathedral School, Rochester, and St. Stephen's, Geneva. She later became a teacher and worked in the resource center at St. Augustine's, Rochester, before serving in the resource center at St. Theodore's,

Rochester.

In addition, Sister DeMers served as both teacher and principal at Sacred Heart, and at St. Joseph's Villa. She also was principal of School of the Holy Childhood. She currently resides at the SSJ motherhouse.

Sister Margaretta MacCarthy combined teaching and guidance during her 45-year career.

An Elmira native, Sister MacCarthy began her teaching career at St. Ambrose School, Rochester (1933-34). She later taught at Corpus Christi, Rochester (1934-37); Sacred Heart (1937-42); St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, (1949-52); St. Mary's, Canandaigua (1952-53); Holy Trinity, Webster (1953-54); St. Patrick's, Corning (1954-60); and St. Augustine's (1960-66) before returning to St. Ambrose (1966-67).

Sister MacCarthy later served as a guidance counselor at St. Ambrose from 1967-69. After studying psychology and guidance at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa., from 1969-70, she served as a guidance counselor for the Catholic schools of Elmira, (1970-73); the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing (1973-78); and St. Patrick's Junior High, Elmira (1978-81).

She has lived at the motherhouse since 1981.

Sister Marie Anthony Goegebuer served at Nazareth Academy 32 years — including 26 years as chairperson of the home economics department.



Sister Goegebuer began her teaching career at Sacred Heart School in 1932. She later taught the fifth and sixth grade at Sacred Heart until 1938, when she became a seventh-grade teacher at Corpus Christi.

In 1939, Sister Goegebuer began teaching home economics at Nazareth Academy. She taught there until she retired from

teaching in 1973. She currently lives at Nazareth Academy Convent.

Sister Mary Adele Mariana served in various diocesan schools for 32 years.

A native of Geneva, Sister Mariana began her teaching career at St. Anthony's, Elmira (1932-42). She also taught at St. Lucy's, Rochester, (1942-48); St. Anne's, Rochester, (1949-51); St. Francis Xavier, Rochester (1951-59); and St. Anthony of Padua, Rochester (1960-63). Sister Mariana served as a substitute teacher at St. Anne's, Palmyra, in 1966 before becoming a first-grade teacher at St. Michael's in Penn Yan from 1966-68.

In addition to her teaching duties, she also served on the ministerial staff of the former Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Rochester, from 1963-64. Sister Mariana also served as assistant superior of the community at Immaculate Heart of Mary from 1964-66.

Since retiring in 1985, she has lived at the St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary.

Sister Mary Agnes Kaseman has taught at several schools in the diocese, including St. Ambrose, St. Mary's, Holy Apostles and Christ the King, all in Rochester; Ss. Peter and Paul's, Elmira; and St. Agnes, Avon.

In addition, Sister Kaseman served as both principal and teacher at St. Mary's, Auburn, and at St. James, Waverly.

Sister Regina Wolfe served the community at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira for 48 years.

A native of Bethlehem, Pa., Sister Wolfe performed clerical work at St. Joseph's Hospital from 1932-74. From 1968-74, she was the director of medical records. Sister Wolfe also served as a consultant for the medical records department from 1974-80.

After retiring in 1980, Sister Wolfe remained at St. Joseph's Hospital. In 1982 she moved to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

Sister Teresa Agnes Bostwick spent 46 years in the classroom — including 36

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Infirmary marks 30th anniversary

In addition to the jubilees being celebrated this year, the Sisters of St. Joseph are also marking another anniversary in 1991.

On Sunday, Oct. 6, the congregation will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary with a Benediction ceremony and reception from 2-5 p.m. at the infirmary, located behind the motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester.

Among the highlights of the event will be a blessing — by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey — of a plaque dedicated to all of the infirmary's benefactors.

The day will also include a tour of the facilities and descriptions of the chapel windows, which were designed by Sister Magdalen La Row, former chairman of the art department of Nazareth College. A number of historical and biographical exhibits also will be on display.

The infirmary was first opened in 1961, and was blessed by then-Bishop James E. Kearney on Dec. 4, 1961.

St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary was designed as a facility to provide care for retired sisters. It replaced a smaller infirmary located on the fourth floor of the motherhouse.

For more information about the celebration, call Pam Roby at 716/586-1000, ext. 51.

Sisters of Mercy honor nine jubilarians

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Sisters of Mercy honored nine jubilarians during their annual Mercy Days celebration, Sept. 21-22, at the Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a eucharistic liturgy on Sept. 22. The service was followed by a dinner honoring this year's jubilarians, which include Sister Mary Irene Rappl (60 years).

Celebrating 60 years

Sister Mary Irene Rappl is the lone Sister of Mercy celebrating her 60-year anniversary.

An educator for 42 years, Sister Rappl taught at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester from 1941-55. She also taught at several diocesan elementary schools, including: Mount Carmel, St. Charles Borromeo, St. James, all in Rochester; St. Joseph's, Penfield; and Our Lady of Mercy, Greece.

Sister Rappl, who in 1942 earned a bachelor of science degree in home economics from Marywood College in Scranton, Pa., also served as a dietitian at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell from 1955-58.

Since retiring from teaching in 1978, Sister Rappl has served the order at various times as a driver, mail clerk, switchboard operator and coordinator of fundraising sales. She currently lives with the Marietta Community at the motherhouse.

Celebrating 50 years

Sister Mary Bernard Butts is book-

store manager, coordinator of student workers and an office worker at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

A native of Rochester, she spent 48 years in elementary school education as a teacher, principal and family coordinator.

From 1962-68, Sister Butts was the principal of St. Mary's, Corning. She later served as the principal of Annunciation School, Rochester, from 1968-77. She also taught at both diocesan schools.

Sister Butts' other teaching assignments included stints at St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester (1945-54); St. Andrew's, Rochester (1957-62); and St. James, Rochester (1977-88).

In addition, Sister Butts served as cook at Camp Stella Maris in Lakeville for 15 summers. She currently lives at the St. James Convent, Rochester.

Sister Mary Baptist Nolan has been a parish visitor at St. John of Rochester, Fairport, since 1984. From 1978-84, she also served as parish visitor at St. Andrew's, Rochester.

Prior to making parish visitations, Sister Nolan was a cook and laundress, primarily at St. Mary's Convent, Corning; at the Mercy motherhouse and high school; and at St. Salome's Convent. She also provided library and clerical assistance for the congregation.

Sister Nolan currently lives with the Omega Community in the motherhouse.

Currently a resident of Pembroke Pines, Fla., Sister Mary Robert Ringwood served in diocesan schools between 1943 and 1990.

A 1943 graduate of Nazareth Normal School, Sister Ringwood graduated from St. Bonaventure University in Olean, N.Y.

in 1958. She began her teaching career at St. Andrew's, Rochester (1943-51). She also taught at St. Thomas the Apostle, St. John the Evangelist and St. James, all in Rochester; Holy Family, Auburn; and served as both teacher and principal at St. Michael's, Newark (1957-63).

Sister Ringwood's last teaching assignment in the Rochester diocese was at St. Louis, Pittsford, where she taught from 1969-90. She moved to Florida in 1990.

Sister Mary Berchmans Ross has been a business teacher at Elmira Notre Dame High School since 1971.

Prior to her years at Notre Dame, Sister Ross taught at Our Lady of Mercy High School (1943-52). She also served as the school's office manager from 1952-66. From 1966-71, she was the office manager at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell.

A native of Utica, Sister Ross earned her master of science degree in business education from Indiana University in 1977.

Celebrating 25 years

Sister Teresa Bolha is currently a theology teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School. She came to the school after teaching religion at St. Charles Borromeo from 1976-91.

Sister Bolha also taught physical education at Our Lady of Mercy Elementary School and at the high school from 1965-76.

A Utica native, Sister Bolha earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Ithaca College in 1963. She has studied theology at St. Bernard's Institute, Rochester; at Boston College; at

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