

# Doris Williams Cohen, 60; cook at homeless shelter

ROCHESTER — Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Church Oct. 28 for Doris Williams Cohen.

Mrs. Cohen died of a heart attack Oct. 25, 1991, at the age of 60.

Concelebrants for the Mass were Father Bruce Ammering, pastor of Blessed Sacrament, and Father Robert Werth, pastor of St. Bridget's Parish.

Born Doris Williams on Jan. 13, 1930, Mrs. Cohen attended Blessed Sacrament Church most of her life.

In 1983, Mrs. Cohen responded to an appeal for volunteers from organizers of the shelter Blessed Sacrament then operated for the homeless. According to her daughter, Ann Marie Williams, Mrs. Cohen began helping at the shelter by doing laundry and cooking occasional meals for the the 12-15 individuals who came to stay in the shelter. Soon she was cooking every night.

"It's funny, because she didn't like cooking," Ann Marie Williams observed. "But it was something she could do. She just wanted everybody to have a good meal."

When Mrs. Cohen discovered that

people were coming for meals to Blessed Sacrament from the shelter operated by St. Bridget's Parish, she began preparing enough food to send to St. Bridget's each night as well. She continued to do this for five years, until that shelter added kitchen facilities, and her daughter began to cook there.

During the 1990-91 shelter season alone, Mrs. Cohen fed approximately 8,000 people, Ann Marie Williams said.

"She was just a humble, humble soul," noted Pat Richards, a cousin who lives in Altmar, N.Y. "Everyone wondered how she could do it."

On Thanksgiving Day, 1986, Mrs. Cohen married Russell Cohen, a friend who was terminally ill with cancer. He died June 27, 1987.

In addition to her daughter and Richards, Mrs. Cohen is survived an aunt, Frances Leight of Rochester; her sister Marjorie Ewanow of Greece; two brothers, Donald Williams of Las Vegas and Edmund Williams of Macedon; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

# Sister Christina Onorato, SSJ, 87; longtime diocesan school teacher

ROCHESTER — Sister Christina Onorato, SSJ, (formerly Sister John Francis) a teacher in diocesan schools for 56 years, died of cardiac arrest on Nov. 9 at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary. She was 87.

Born in Geneva, Sister Onorato grew up as a parishioner at St. Francis de Sales Parish, and graduated from De Sales High School. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1923, and attended Nazareth Normal School and Nazareth College of Rochester.

Sister Onorato taught at a number of Catholic schools, including St. Augustine, St. Mary's Boy Home, St. Francis Xavier, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Christ the King, all of Rochester. Her two longest teaching stints both were at St. Ambrose of Rochester, from 1928-33 and 1964-1981.

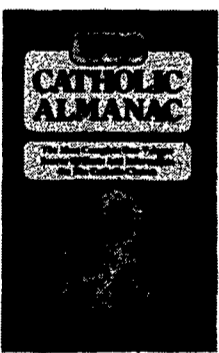
Due to failing health, Sister Onorato retired to St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in 1981. She remained active, however, spending much of her time visiting bedridden sisters, reading and praying with them. She paid special attention to the dying.

Sister Onorato also was a member of the Catholic Daughters of America.

She is survived by one brother, Louis Onorato of Auburn; nieces; nephews; cousins; and her sisters in the St. Joseph congregation.

Mass of Christian Resurrection was concelebrated Nov. 12 at the sisters' motherhouse chapel by Monsignor William Shannon and Fathers James Marvin, John Reddington, Joseph Donovan and Thomas Miller. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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