

Twelve Mercy sisters celebrate jubilees

EDITORS' NOTE: This is the first of a two-part series honoring women religious celebrating their jubilees this year.

BRIGHTON — Twelve jubilarians were honored when the Sisters of Mercy celebrated their annual Mercy Day on Sept. 24, 1994, at the motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road.

The day's events included a presentation by Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, president of St. Bernard's Institute; a liturgy; commissioning to ministry; dinner; and tributes to the jubilarians.

65 years

Sister Louise Marie Gabriel, RSM, (Mary Charlotte) taught for 40 years in diocesan secondary and elementary schools. Her longest tenures were at Our Lady of Mount Carmel (1928-33, 1938-41, 1956-57), St. Salome's (1943-51), St. Charles Borromeo (1952-56, 1964-67), St. James (1957-62), and the former Cardinal Mooney High School (1968-73), all in Rochester; and Holy Family, Auburn (1933-38). She also taught at St. Cecilia's, Elmira; St. Vincent's, Corning; and St. Andrew's, Rochester. When she left teaching, she worked with the residents at Maryville Home for Adults in Avoca. In her retirement at the Mercy motherhouse in Rochester, she has enjoyed creative writing.



Sister Mary Patrice Hussey, RSM, a Corning native, taught for 18 years in her hometown: 13 years at St. Mary's (1955-68) and five at St. Vincent's (1944-49). An educator for 50 years, she also taught at the old St. Mary's in Rochester (1932-42); St. Ann's, Hornell (1971-80); and also St. Andrew's, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street) and Holy Cross, all in Rochester; and St. Rita's, Webster. Concurrently with teaching a grade in many of these schools, she also taught music and was parish organist and served as choir director. In the 1950s she was principal for one year at Holy Cross in Rochester and two years at St. Cecilia's in Elmira. Since 1971 she has lived at St. Ann's Convent, Hornell, and continues her visitation ministry in the St. Ann's parish.



Sister Mary Justin Morris, RSM, was an educator for 50 years in diocesan schools, with her longest assignments at St. Thomas the Apostle (1930-40), Holy Cross (1948-57), St. John the Evangelist (1958-65) and Our Lady of Mercy Elementary (1965-79), all in Rochester; and St. John's, Clyde (1940-46). She also taught at St. Salome's and St. Andrew's, Rochester; and St. Rita's, Webster. In addition, she has served as principal at Holy Cross, Rochester (1953-57). Since 1984 she has been office manager for the annual Mercy Founders Club fundraisers. She has lived at the motherhouse since 1973.



60 years

Sister Mary Suzanne Delaney, RSM, was an educator in diocesan elementary and secondary schools for more than 30 years (1934-67); religious-education coordinator and parish minister at Church of the Annunciation, Rochester (1967-79); and hospital and parish visitor (1979-82). When she retired to the motherhouse in 1982, she continued her visitation ministry. As an educator, she was concurrently principal and teacher at St. Mary's, Corning (1941-54) and taught at the following elementary schools: St. James, Rochester (1957-58, 1959-62, 1964-66); St. Patrick's, Elmira; Annunciation, Rochester; and St. Rita's, Webster. At the secondary level she taught mostly history at Our Lady of Mercy High School (1934-35, 1936-41); Aquinas Institute (1954-55); and Notre Dame High School, Elmira (1962-64). Back in 1967, Sister Suzanne was one of the earliest Sisters of Mercy to be engaged in full-time parish and religious education ministry.



Cecilia's and St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street), Rochester; and St. Vincent's, Corning. She concluded her teaching career at St. James, Rochester (1974-80). In 1982 she retired to the motherhouse.

Sister Mary Lorraine Kaufman, RSM, served in diocesan schools for 52 years, primarily as a teacher. She taught at four elementary schools: St. Andrew's, Rochester (1937-40); St. Patrick's, Elmira (1940-58); St. Rita's, Webster (1958-67); and St. John Evangelist (Humboldt St.), Rochester (1967-83). From 1983 to 1989 she was an administrative assistant and a guidance-office secretary at the former Cardinal Mooney High School, Rochester. In 1989 she moved to the Mercy motherhouse, where she is a driver for senior sisters and postal clerk for the motherhouse and high-school mail.



50 years

Sister Mary Mercy Basler, RSM, an Elmira native, has been an assistant in the treasurer's office and tuition secretary at Our Lady of Mercy High School since 1981. She had been a music teacher in diocesan elementary schools for 28 years (1947-75), serving at St. Mary's, Corning (1947-54); St. Salome's (1955-62) and St. Charles Borromeo

Sister Ann Caufield, RSM, (Mary Scholastica) retired in December, 1993, after almost 20 years as nurse practitioner (1974-78) and physician assistant (1978-93) at MacDonald Medical Center in Woodhull, N.Y., which she was instrumental in opening in 1974. Prior to this work, she had been involved in study and nursing-hospital administration ministry since 1946. She spent 20 years at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell (1951-54 and 1957-74), serving there as administrator (1957-66), director of nursing service, and director of in-service education. She worked for one year at St. Mary's Hospital and one year as motherhouse infirmarian and Mercy High School nurse, and was a student for six years in the nursing and hospital-administration fields. Since retirement, her ministry is visitations to women and children in Steuben County.



Sister Therese Richardson, RSM, (John Mary), an Elmira native, has been on the Mercy Prayer Center staff in spirituality ministry since 1988. Working in diocesan education ministry for 30 years, she was at St. Andrew's 22 years: 15 as



Religious Anniversaries

Sister Mary Assisium Fitzgerald, RSM, taught for 33 years (1937-70) in diocesan elementary schools. Starting at St. Patrick in Owego (1937-40), she also taught at the following Monroe County schools: Holy Cross (1941-46), St. Charles (1950-56), St. Thomas the Apostle (1958-62) and Good Shepherd (1963-68); as well as St. Salome's, St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street), Mount Carmel, St. Cecilia's and Annunciation.



After leaving teaching, she became Mercy Retirement Program assistant (1970-80) and then a driver for the senior sisters (1980-86). She retired in 1986 and lives at the motherhouse.

Sister Mary Daniel Janto, RSM, was an educator in diocesan elementary schools for 47 years, with 35 years spent as a classroom teacher and 12 as a tutor and resource-center coordinator. She taught five years (1946-51) at St. John's in Clyde, her hometown. She also was at St. Salome's, Rochester (1936-37, 1965-72, 1980-82); Holy Family, Auburn (1937-38, 1955-62); St. Andrew's (1938-46), St.



(1966-75), Rochester; Holy Family, Auburn; and Holy Cross and St. Andrew's, Rochester. She was congregational instrumental music supervisor (1965-72). From 1972 to 1975, in addition to teaching music at St. Charles, she performed parish-liturgical ministry and home-retreat work. She was congregational prayer coordinator (1975-81) and was also involved in Mercy Prayer Center ministry (1978-81).



Sister Rita Biel, RSM, (Mary Neri) has been parish visitor at Holy Cross Church in Rochester since 1986. Prior to that time, she was an administrator and teacher in diocesan elementary schools for 40 years. She was principal and junior-high teacher at St. Patrick's, Owego (1966-71), and taught there one more year (1971-72). She also taught at St. Salome's (1946-50), St. Charles Borromeo (1950-54), St. Andrew's (1954-62 and 1964-66), St. James (1962-64 and 1972-82) and Holy Cross (1982-86), all in Rochester.



teacher (1946-49, 1953-63, 1973-75) and seven as principal (1975-82). She also taught at St. Patrick's, Owego (1949-53), and was concurrently principal and teacher at St. Salome's, Rochester (1963-66) and principal at Holy Cross, Rochester (1966-67). She served as elected councilor on the Mercy regional community's administrative team (1967-73) and was on the staff of Melita House (1982-88).

25 years

After four years as principal at Northeastern Catholic Junior High School in Irondequoit (1990-94), **Sister Kathryn Wahl, RSM,** has moved into a new ministry as religious-education coordinator at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Greece. After a formation period and studies at SUNY College at Brockport (1968-73), she taught at Annunciation, Rochester (1973-76) and Good Shepherd, Henrietta (1976-79). She then served as principal at St. Salome's, Rochester (1979-85) and assistant principal at the former Cardinal Mooney High School, Rochester (1985-89). The following year (1989-90), she was a transition coordinator for the Diocesan Catholic School Office/Northeast Quadrant before she assisted in opening Northeastern in 1990.

