

Milestones

Fifteen Mercy sisters observe jubilee celebrations

BRIGHTON — Two members of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester are celebrating 70th-anniversary jubilees in 1995, while six others are observing their 60th jubilee and seven have reached their 50th year in the congregation.

These jubilarians will be honored with a Mass and dinner to be held in late September at the order's motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road.

70 years

Sister Mary Celine Frank, RSM, and Sister Mary Evangelist Meyer, RSM, entered the Mercy order in 1924, were received as novices on August 22, 1925, and made their final profession of vows on August 21, 1930. Both sisters, coincidentally, are Rochester natives and from St. Andrew's Parish in Rochester, and were teachers at diocesan schools. In fact, St. James School in Rochester figured prominently in each of their lives.

Sister Mary Celine Frank, RSM, taught for 47 years in diocesan schools, primarily at the junior-high level, though she has taught all grades from 1 through 8. She also was principal at two Corning schools: St. Mary's and St. Vincent's. She taught for 11 years at St. James School, Rochester (1951-58, 1960-64), and for nine years each at St. Mary's, Corning (1927-36), St. Andrew's, Rochester (1938-47); and Holy Family, Auburn (1947-50, 1967-73).

Sister Celine also taught at St. John's, Clyde, St. Vincent's, Corning, St. Ann's, Hornell, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Our Lady of Mercy (elementary) and Holy Cross, all in Rochester. After retiring from teaching in 1973, she worked until 1988 as a clerical assistant in the congregation's offices and as sacristan for the

motherhouse chapel.

She lives in Lourdes Hall infirmary at the Mercy motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road. Her sibling, Sister Mary Colette Frank in Hornell, is also a Sister of Mercy. Sister Celine graduated from Charlotte High School and St. Joseph Commercial School in Rochester, and St. Bonaventure University in Olean (B.A. in Education).

Sister Mary Evangelist Meyer, RSM, spent more than 60 years in diocesan education ministry. She has been on two founding faculties:

St. James School, Rochester (1950); and at St. Michael School, Newark (1954), serving also as St. Michael's first principal (1954-57). She has taught all grades from 1-12. Sister Evangelist was an elementary school teacher at Holy Cross, Rochester, for seven years (1931-35, 1957-60) and for shorter times at St. Ann's, Hornell, Holy Family, Auburn, and St. Mary's, St. Cecilia's, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Charles Borromeo, all in Rochester.

At the secondary school level, Sister Evangelist taught English and religion at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, for 11 years (1939-50) and at Holy Family High School, Auburn, for two years. Her longest ministry (23 years) was at St. James School, where she was a teacher and then coordinator — and, later, assistant coordinator — of the resource center (1950-54, 1970-89).

Since leaving education ministry in 1989, Sister Evangelist has continued to visit the homebound in St. James Parish, a duty she has performed since 1970. Over the years she has also served as superior at several convents. Today she makes her home at St. James Convent. Sister Evangelist is a graduate of Mercy High School and St.

Bonaventure University (bachelor of arts in social science).

In honor of her 29 years of service to the St. James community, Father Robert C. Bradler, pastor, has designated Sunday, April 30, as "Sister Evangelist's Day" at the Irondequoit parish. The day will begin at 11:30 a.m. with Mass followed by a reception in the church hall.

60 years

The 60th-year jubilarians entered the congregation in 1934, were received as novices on June 1, 1935, and made their final profession of vows on Sept. 21, 1940.

Sister Mary Finn-Bar Bartley, RSM, has been both a teacher and nurse. Prior to her nursing ministry, she

taught for 35 years (1937-72) in diocesan schools. She was at St. Vincent's, Corning, for eight years (1942-44, 1961-67) and at St. John's, Clyde, for seven (1944-51). She also taught at Holy Family, Auburn, St. Patrick's, Owego, St. Mary's, Corning, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Salome's, St. Andrew's and St. John the Evangelist, all in Rochester.

After receiving her certification as a licensed practical nurse from Rochester General Hospital in 1973, she worked at Highland Hospital for two years and then at St. John's Home in Rochester (1975-85), while caring for her mother at home. Since retiring from nursing in 1985, she has been a substitute teacher and study-hall proctor at Mercy High, as well as motherhouse switchboard operator and shopkeeper in the community's gift store, Kate's Tea and Gift Shop. Born in Cork, Ireland, Sister Finn-Bar's home parish is Rochester's Blessed Sacrament. A graduate of Mercy High School and Nazareth Normal School, she lives with the Omega Community at the motherhouse.

Sister Mary Corinne Cimineri, RSM, has used her culinary skills for 61 years in ministering as cook at both the Mercy motherhouse and Mercy High for 23 years (1934-57) and then at both Notre Dame High School and Notre Dame convent, Elmira, since 1957. For 12 summers she also assumed the kitchen duties at Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake. A native of Clyde, her home parish is St. John the Evangelist in Clyde. She lives with the Notre Dame Mercy community.

Sister Jane Frances Hauser, RSM, a Literacy Volunteers tutor since 1990, taught primarily science and algebra for 39 years at the secondary level at Aquinas Institute (1937-40), Mercy High (1940-55 and 1972-76), and

Notre Dame High School, Elmira (1955-72). She was a member of Notre Dame's founding faculty in 1955. Sister Jane Frances served on the congregation's leadership team as a councilor for eight years (1973-81) and then as coordinator of Omega, the senior sisters' community at the motherhouse (1979-90). A Rochester native, Sister Jane Frances' home parish is Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester. She lives with the Omega community at the motherhouse. She is a graduate of Mercy High, St. Bonaventure University (bachelor of arts in education), and Syracuse University (master of science in science).

Sister Mary Dominica Petocchi, RSM, served in diocesan elementary-education ministry for 57 years,

having just retired this past year. Thirty of those years (1964-94) were spent in Elmira at St. Patrick's (1964-71), St. Mary's (1971-73) and then Our Lady of Lourdes (Holy Family Intermediate) from 1973-94. She also taught 11 years at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rochester (1937-48), nine years at St. Vincent's, Corning (1949-51, 1957-64) and also at St. John's, Clyde, St. Patrick's, Owego, St. Mary's, Corning, and St. Cecilia's, Rochester. Her ministry today is the Spiritual Apostolate. A native of Clyde, Sister Dominica's home parish is St. John the Evangelist, Clyde. She lives with the Omega Community at the motherhouse. She is a graduate of Clyde High School and Nazareth Normal School.

Sister Mary Ambrose Rogers, RSM, served in diocesan schools for 55 years (1937-92) as an administrator and teacher. She was at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rochester, for 17 years (1942-59) — 14 of them as both principal and eighth-grade teacher. She spent 12 years at St. Ann's, Hornell (1969-81), where again she was both principal and junior-high teacher. She was also principal at Holy Cross, Rochester, for six years (1960-66). She taught at several other schools: Holy Family, Auburn; St. Mary's, Bath; and St. John the Evangelist, St. Andrew's and St. James, all in Rochester.

In 1981 she returned to St. Andrew's as teacher and tutor until 1992, when she retired. For several years she also served as convent superior. Sister Ambrose is an Auburn native, and Holy Family Church, Auburn, is her home parish. She lives in Lourdes Hall at the motherhouse. She graduated from Holy Family High School in Auburn, Nazareth Normal School and St. Bonaventure University (bachelor of arts in education).

Sister Mary Regis Straughn, RSM, has served in parish ministry and social work with the

Hispanic population at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Rochester, since 1963. From 1975-81 she was co-pastoral administrator at Mt. Carmel, joining Sister Carol Fox, RSM, as the first "non-priest" pastoral administrators in the Rochester diocese when they served the parish with Father Laurence Tracy.

Since 1981 Sister Regis has been pastoral associate at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Prior to parish ministry, she had been a teacher and principal in diocesan schools for 28 years. She was principal/teacher at St. John's, Clyde (1951-56) and Mount Carmel (1963-65). She taught at St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester, for 12 years (1945-51, 1956-62) and at St. Salome's, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Helen's, also in Rochester. She was also a convent superior for several years. Sister Regis was born in Rochester, and her home parish is St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street). She is a graduate of Mercy High School and Nazareth Normal School.

50 years

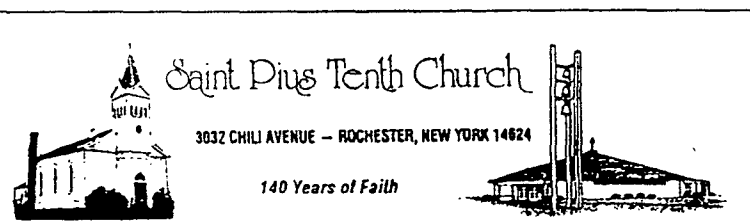
The order's golden jubilarians entered the Mercy community on September 4, 1914, were received as novices on Feb. 2, 1915, and made their final profession of vows on August 22, 1950.

Sister Mary George Burns, RSM, pastoral associate at St. Joseph's Parish in Oswego (Syracuse diocese), was a

teacher for 30 years before going into parish ministry. Her early teaching (1947-54) was in diocesan elementary schools: St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; St. Mary's, Corning; and St. Cecilia's, Elmira. From 1954-77 she taught science and math at Our Lady of Mercy High and Cardinal Mooney High School, Rochester; Notre Dame High, Elmira; and several Catholic high schools in Missouri and Nebraska. She also taught science at St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, Hornell.

Since 1977 she has been in pastoral ministry in Schuyler, Neb.; St. Mary's, Corning; and since 1986 at St. Joseph's in Oswego. She was born in Auburn, and her home parish is St. Mary's, Auburn. She lives with the St. Joseph Convent community in Oswego. She is a graduate of Holy Family High School, Auburn; Nazareth College (bachelor of science in science); St. Thomas University, Minn. (master of arts in teaching biology); and Creighton University, Omaha (M. Min. in ministry/theology).

Sister Mary Raymond Joseph Griffin, RSM, pastoral associate at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira, was a music teacher for 37 years before moving into parish ministry in



St. Pius Tenth Church thanks God for the many years of service given by the Jubilarians.

Continued on next page