

Milestones

Sisters of St. Joseph honor 31 marking jubilee celebrations this year

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Joseph."

Sister Cora Marie Mitrano, SSJ, is native of Rochester.

"My first love of teaching began at Holy Apostles School, when I was very young," Sister Cora Marie said. "The school was crowded and I was given the challenge to teach in the school hall with one wall painted black to serve as a teaching device. I also remember my second and third grade students taking up a collection to buy a profession cross for me, having believed I lost mine.



"My wonderful teaching days at Nazareth Academy are over but I am still here working, full time, in the Alumnae Office," Sister Cora Marie continued. "This keeps me in constant contact with the graduates. How rewarding it is to greet former students; we reminisce about unforgettable trips to Italy and the numerous candles each one lit for the intentions of loved ones back home. God was always with us on those trips."

A native of Rochester, **Sister Mary Kevin Moynihan, SSJ**, had a teaching career



which included positions in Rochester, Dansville, and Elmira. She also served as chairperson of the business department at Nazareth Academy.

"The 31 years at Nazareth Academy have been years of peace and happiness," Sister Mary Kevin recalled. "I enjoy teaching at the high-school level and having the opportunity to share life with so many sisters at Nazareth Academy Convent."

As for her religious life, Sister Mary Kevin said, "It took me several years to answer God's call for I used to think I wanted to be free to come and go as I pleased. Finally, it came to me that I didn't want to be like the third servant in the parable

where the Master handed out so much to each of three servants. When it comes time for me to give an accounting, I don't want to report, 'Here are the talents you gave me, Lord, I kept them buried.' Since joining the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester I have never had one moment of doubt that this is where I belong."

Sister Mary Kevin continues to serve at Nazareth Academy, working in auxiliary services.

Sister Julia Clare Richards, SSJ, is a native of Elmira.

"As a Sister of St. Joseph," Sister Julia Clare said, "my main ministry has been in education. It has been a great blessing and privilege for me to have seen young minds expand with knowledge — spiritual and temporal — and to have had so much cooperation from dedicated parents."

As for her vocation, Sister Julia Clare observed, "Why was religious life the right choice for me? Religious life has deepened my relationship with God and given me the opportunity to meet and minister to many of God's people."

Sister Julia Clare is currently religious education coordinator at St. James Church in Waverly.

A native of Rochester, **Sister Mary Catherine Shay, SSJ (Sister Marie Gregory)**, observed, "As a Sister of St. Joseph for 50 years, I am grateful for the gift of religious vocation and for my vocation to nursing. During my 18 years at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, I was privileged to serve people of all ages; from them I learned a great deal about life and death. I learned about the deep faith, courage and patience of people who are suffering and I learned that easing their way was rewarding and humbling. My teaching experience in the School of Nursing was a joyful time. To see students growing and developing into mature nursing professionals was very gratifying.

Following 12 years as nursing supervisor at St. Ann's Home, Sister Mary Catherine spent 12 more in Catholic Family Center's Elder Services program, providing psycho-social counseling. Currently, Sister Mary Catherine continues her "caring" profession as a volunteer at the Arthritis Foundation.



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Hibernians launching project to help priests

By Bob Zyskowski
Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish fraternal and service organization, will launch a national project to support priests and seminarians spiritually, emotionally and financially.

Project St. Patrick, named for Ireland's national saint, is to officially begin April 23 at a benefit dinner in St. Paul.

"Mainly we want to support vocations, seminarians and priests," said Father James Burns, associate pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in metropolitan Minneapolis, who had the idea.

"Through Project St. Patrick we want to tell them we are behind them, we care and we want to help," he told the *Catholic Bulletin*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Father Burns is Catholic action chairman for the Hibernians' national board. Ordained just two years ago, he said he noticed during his own formation that some seminarians could not afford small personal items, additional books or a movie ticket.

Project St. Patrick aims to change that. Funds from the dinner and other contributions will be held in a dedicated endowment fund. Interest from the fund will be used to provide financial support.

"We hope to offer money for scholarships for seminarians and for priests to take sabbati-

cal and to build up their libraries, for example," said Father Burns.

During a "Lord of the Harvest" phase, Hibernians will be invited to offer prayers and sacrifices for vocations. Also, local divisions of the Hibernians and of the women's Hibernians organization, each with about 29,000 members, will be encouraged to show moral support for seminarians and priests by inviting them to meetings and activities.

Father Burns suggested that local divisions could adopt a seminarian or priest. "The whole idea is so that they feel that continuing support," he said, "and know there is a community that cares about them."

Leah Curtin, executive secretary of the Hibernian Life Insurance Fund of Minnesota, said Project St. Patrick is taking national a program which the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians began years ago through a fund in the archdiocese.

Over the years, the women's organization has contributed about \$30,000 for the education of clergy, said Ms. Curtin, a parishioner at Nativity of Our Lord in St. Paul.

As part of the project, she suggested that local women's and men's Hibernian associations could make gift kits for seminarians with such items as razors, shaving cream, shampoo and other toiletries.

The project has been endorsed by New York Cardinal

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