

Milestones

Eleven Sisters of Mercy mark jubilee years

This year's jubilarians from Sisters of Mercy of Rochester include one member celebrating her 75th anniversary and another noting her 70th. Four other jubilarians will celebrate 60 years in the congregation; three will observe 50th anniversaries; and two sisters will mark 25 years.

These jubilarians will be honored at the congregation's annual Mercy Day celebration Sept. 20, at the Mercy motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester.

75 years

Sister Mary Julia Ryan, RSM, entered the Sisters of Mercy in



1921 and was received as a novice on July 6, 1922. She made her final profession of vows on Aug. 23, 1928.

The South Wales, N.Y., native taught 48 years primarily on the high-school level. From 1931 to 1957, she served at Auburn's Holy Family High School; then she taught from 1958 to 1972 at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester.

She began her teaching career in diocesan elementary schools, serving at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Salome and Holy Cross, Rochester; St. John the Evangelist, Clyde; St. Vincent, Corning; and St. Ann, Hornell.

From 1972 to 1991 she served in a volunteer ministry at the Monroe County Jail, performing library work and teaching mathematics. In recognition of those efforts, Sister Julia was presented with a plaque in 1987 by Monroe County Sheriff Andrew Meloni.

In addition, she was a volunteer tutor and family visitor in the Sisters of Mercy inner-city ministry in Rochester's Joseph Avenue neighborhood (1965-74); tutor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School (1972-74); and assistant in the Mercy High School media center (1969-88).

She lives in the Omega community at the Mercy motherhouse. Sister Julia graduated from Charlotte High School and St. Bonaventure University.

70 years

Sister Mary Carmella Coene, RSM, entered the Sisters of Mer-



cy in 1926. She was received on Aug. 27, 1927, and professed final vows on Aug. 31, 1932. Sister

M. Carmella, a member of the Elmira Notre Dame High School faculty, has taught high-school science (physics, chemistry, general science) for 65 years. She is semi-retired and continues to work as a volunteer tutor and an AP chemistry class teacher.

She taught at Mercy High School (1931-33, 1940-50); Elmira Catholic High School (1933-40); Holy Family High School, Auburn (1950-53); St. Ann High School, Hornell (1953-54); and at Notre Dame since the school opened in 1955.

In addition, Sister M. Carmella taught grammar school at St. Patrick's, Elmira (1927); Holy Cross, Rochester (1929-30); and St. Mary, Corning (1954-55). She has also volunteered as a religious educator and worked with the poor in the Elmira area.

She is a Rochester native from St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Sister M. Carmella is a graduate of Nazareth Academy, St. Bonaventure University and Union College. She lives with the Mercy Notre Dame community in Elmira.

60 years

The 60th-year jubilarians entered the congregation in 1936; were received as novices on May 29, 1937; and made their final profession of vows on Aug. 26, 1942.

Sister Mary Beatrice Curran, RSM, has taught history at the



secondary-school level for 54 years: 29 in Elmira and 25 in Rochester. She was on the founding faculty at

Notre Dame High School, Elmira, in 1955; remained until 1959; and later returned in 1968. She served not only as a teacher, but as chairperson of the social studies department from 1980 until retiring in 1993. She has worked in the Notre Dame High School business office since that time. She also taught at Mercy High School (1939-55, 1959-68).

In addition to her teaching, Sister Beatrice was a consultant in history for the State Education Department (1970-93). Her responsibilities covered curriculum changes, reviewing statewide examination and developing a teacher's guide — "Teaching American History" — for use in New York state.

Sister Beatrice is a native of Rochester and her home parish is St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street). She lives with the Mercy Notre Dame Community in Elmira. She is a graduate of Mercy High School, Duquesne University and Catholic University of America.

Sister Mary (Aquin) Jaekle, RSM, taught in Catholic schools



for 44 years, primarily at the secondary-school level. She was a teacher and chairperson of the mathematics department at Mercy High School (1949-68). She served in the same capacity at Cardinal Mooney High School (1968-80), returning to teach at Mercy High School (1980-84). Formerly she taught at St. Ann's School, Hornell (1940-48); and St. Mary's, Corning (1948-49). After leaving the education ministry in 1984 she served as Lourdes Hall Infirmiry assistant until December 1996. Currently she is a sacristan in Lourdes Hall.

Sister Mary is an Auburn native from Holy Family Parish. She graduated from Holy Family High School, Nazareth College,

and the University of Notre Dame. She lives with the Shalom community at the motherhouse.

Sister Dorothy Schlueter (formerly Mary Peter), RSM, in 1964



became the first woman religious in New York state to be designated a certified clinical psychologist.

Since 1977, she has analyzed petitions for marriage annulment in her role as the Rochester Diocesan Tribunal clinical psychologist. She has also served as a panel psychologist to the New York State Bureau of Disability Determination since 1978.

Earlier, she taught English and dramatics at Mercy High School (1941-58) and psychology at Catherine McAuley College (1955-67), St. John Fisher College and Nazareth College (1965-67) and the University of Rochester (1967-69). She served on the congregation's council (1967-70), and was also appointed vocation director and congregation psychologist. In addition, Sister Dorothy was a psychologist on the staff of Rochester General Hospital (1970-78).

She is a Rochester native and her home parish is St. Salome. She currently lives with the Marietta Community in the motherhouse. She graduated from Mercy High School, St. Mary College, Fordham University and the University of Rochester.

Sister Margaret Mary Walsh, RSM, works as the business man-



ager at Mercy Center with the Aging, after serving 50 years in education ministry. She taught or served as principal at the following Rochester schools: St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street (1939-51 and 1962-67); St. Salome (1951-57); Holy Cross (1957-60); and St. Mary, Bath (1961-62). She also taught at St. Helen, Rochester (1967-71); and Cardinal Mooney High School, Rochester (1971-89).

A Rochester native, Sister Margaret Mary's home parish is St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street). She lives with the Omega Community at the motherhouse. She is a graduate of Mercy High School, Nazareth Normal School, Medaille College and Niagara University.

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50 years

The 50th-year jubilarians entered the congregation in 1946; were received as novices on July 1, 1947; and made their profession of final vows on Aug. 24, 1952.

Sister M. Howard Cowan, RSM, has been co-administrator



of Mercy Care Center in Elmira since 1984. With her co-administrator, Sister Mary Rose Schum, she founded and

operates the adult social day-care facility on Linden Place.

Sister Howard has served in the nursing ministry for 46 years. Prior to her work at Mercy Care Center she was a nurse at Mercy High School, Flower City Nursing Home and for 26 years at the motherhouse infirmiry where she and Sister Mary Rose were co-administrators for many years.

She is an Auburn native and her home parish is Holy Family. She graduated from Holy Family High School and St. Mary's School of Nursing. Sister Howard makes her home with the St. Cecilia (Elmira) Mercy community.

Sister Kathleen Flaherty (formerly Mary Owen), RSM, has



been senior program assistant with the Visiting Nurse Service Adult Social Day Service since 1993. She also served Visiting Nurse Service as a home health aide (1982-93).

Prior to her work in the health-care ministry, Sister Kathleen served in diocesan elementary education from 1949 to 1982. She was a teacher at the following Rochester schools: St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street); St. Cecilia; St. Thomas the Apostle; St. Salome; St. Charles Borromeo; St. Joseph; and Good Shepherd. She also taught at St. John the Evangelist, Clyde; and St. Patrick, Elmira. In addition to her teaching she worked at Tioga County Rural Ministry, Owego (1978-79).

A native of Rochester, her home parish is St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street). She graduated from Mercy High School, Nazareth Normal School and Medaille College. Sister Kathleen lives with the Mercy Good Shepherd community.

Sister Elizabeth Hughes (formerly Mary John Edward), RSM,



who in 1992 became founder and director of Misericordia Spiritual Ministry, Elmira, spent the early years of her career as

a diocesan elementary-school educator and administrator.

Sister Betty taught at Holy Cross, Rochester (1949-50); St. Ann, Hornell (1950-51); St. John the Evangelist, Clyde (1951-53); St. Patrick, Owego (1953-56); St. Mary, Corning (1956-61); St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester (1961-63); and St. Patrick, Elmira (1963-66). She was also principal of Holy Family School, Auburn (1966-69). She conducted parish ministry at St. Christopher's, Rochester (1970-75), and Immaculate Conception, Ithaca (1977-82); and served in the diocesan departments of religious education and pastoral ministry.

She was also director of candidates for the congregation's formation team (1983-89). Concurrently she served as executive secretary of the diocesan Pastoral Center's pastoral associates committee (1983-85). Prior to her most recent ministry she served as chaplain at Craig Developmental Disabilities Service Office, Geneseo/Soyea/Dansville

(1984-92).

Sister Betty is a native of Elmira and her home parish is St. Patrick. She lives in Elmira and is affiliated with the St. Cecilia Mercy community. She graduated from Elmira Catholic High School, Nazareth College and Aquinas University.

25 years

The 25th-year jubilarians were received as novices on Sept. 10, 1972. Sister Gaye Moorhead,



RSM, made her final vows Oct. 23, 1976. Sister Mary Fran Wegman, RSM, professed final vows Dec. 5, 1976.



Sister Gaye is the founder and ministry coordinator of the Migrant Education Ministry sponsored by the Institute of the

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. Since 1993, her mobile ministry has traveled between Ohio and Florida in an effort to provide stability to the educational, health care and spiritual needs of migrant families.

Sister Gaye has spent much of her career as an advocate for children. She founded Andrew's Center, a foster care home for special needs children, and served as a foster parent as well (1974-77). After completing her law degree from the University of Notre Dame, she was a staff attorney for the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (1980-88). She then went into private practice and worked exclusively with children in neglect, abuse, custody and foster care cases (1988-89).

She was elected to the congregation's leadership team and continued her practice part-time (1989-93). Sister Gaye is a native of Findlay, Ohio, and converted to Catholicism. She lives with the Mercy Mobile community in Fremont, Ohio, and Lakeland, Fla. She is a graduate of Air Academy (Colorado), SUNY College at Geneseo and the University of Notre Dame.

Sister Mary Fran has served as an elected councilor for the Regional Community of Rochester Sisters of Mercy of the Americas since 1993. Sister Mary Fran's love of children is evident in her work prior to joining the Mercy Leadership Team.

Sister Mary Fran served as a teacher, St. Andrew School (1974-77); co-director and foster parent, Andrew's Center (1977-85); and neo-natal intensive care nurse, Strong Memorial Hospital (full-time, 1985-87; part-time, 1987-93). She also served as vocation director for the regional community (1987-90). In addition to her vocation duties she became formation director (1990-93).

She is a Rochester native and her home parish is St. Anne. She lives with the North Street Mercy community. She is a graduate of Mercy High School, SUNY College at Brockport and Monroe Community College.