

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Sister Binsack leaves director's post

By Mike Latona  
Staff Writer

After 17 years as a departmental director in the Diocese of Rochester, Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, is taking a new position with the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester.

Sister Binsack was recently elected to a four-year term as co-director of her community. She is one of four newly appointed administrators to oversee the 212-member congregation. Sister Binsack will be installed June 29 at the Mercy Motherhouse chapel along with Sister Sheila Stevenson, RSM, president, Sister Mary Fran Wegman, RSM, vice-president, and Sister Pat Brinzling, RSM, councilor.

"I think I bring to the team a real love for the church and the diocese, and a real understanding of the diocese. I hope that will be an asset for the new team," said Sister Binsack, 53, a Sister of Mercy since 1977.

As a councilor, Sister Binsack said she will team with the other administrators in "sharing the overall responsibility."

"There's not really a firm job description," Sister Binsack said. She added that specific duties will not be solidified until after the administrative team meets for the first time.

For the past eight years Sister Binsack has served as diocesan director of faith development ministry, overseeing the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis and the Department of Catholic Schools. She was also director of religious education from 1981 to 1989 and temporary superintendent of schools during the 1991-92 school year.

Although Sister Binsack is looking forward to her new role with the Sisters of Mercy, she said she will miss working at the Pastoral Center.

"I love the position, and I love the people I work with. Yes, it is hard to leave something you've enjoyed for so long," Sister Binsack commented.

At the same time, Sister Binsack said



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

At a reception in her honor June 18, Sister Mary Ann Binsack (right) receives best wishes from Mary Louise Kime, principal of Holy Trinity School, Webster.

her job has "had its ups and downs." She oversaw the creation of a diocesan-controlled school system during a period in which several schools were closed or consolidated.

"The vision of having a Catholic school system was very forward. We were really trying to ensure the future of Catholic schools in this diocese," Sister Binsack said. "I think the down part was convincing people that the closing of school buildings did not mean the end of Catholic schools."

Sister Binsack's diocesan position will not be immediately filled. Her duties will be divided between Maribeth Mancini, diocesan director of evangelization and catechesis, and Timothy Dwyer, superintendent of Catholic schools.

Mancini will serve as the chief liaison for all areas of faith development ministry except schools. She said that her largest added responsibility will be to coordinate Synod goal No. 1 — lifelong faith formation. She will work with St. Bernard's Institute in developing and continuing programs to address the goal.

Meanwhile, Dwyer will represent Faith

Development Ministry on the diocesan Stewardship Council. Dwyer added that although his duties as schools superintendent won't change, "I would like to be more visible to youth ministry and religious education — things going on in Maribeth's department."

Mancini and Dwyer said that Sister Binsack's position will remain unfilled pending results of the strategic planning process. Over the next 12 months, diocesan officials will reassess Pastoral Center staffing and its relation to strategic planning at the parish level.

"There's been no discussion of eliminating the position completely. Everybody's keeping an open mind," Dwyer said.

Both Mancini and Dwyer spoke highly of Sister Binsack, their outgoing supervisor.

"She's been a great leader. She's been a mentor and a very empowering person," Mancini commented.

"She has been a close friend as well as a boss," Dwyer stated. "She's been tremendously attentive to detail, which has been a help to all of us."

## Obituary

### M. P. Shults, class of 1932

Mabel Perdue Shults, 86, an alumna and longtime supporter of Nazareth College, died April 29, 1997, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Numerous Nazareth alumnae and officials, as well as other educational leaders in the community, attended her memorial Mass June 11 at Nazareth. She was still an active member of the college's board of trustees at the time of her death.

Her nephew, Father Otto J. Vogt, celebrated the Mass in a chapel in the college's Otto Shults Community Center, named after her late husband and Father Vogt's uncle.

"She was a self-giving, caring kind of person you could always share with," he told the *Catholic Courier*. After she married his uncle, he said, "She kind of took his family into her concern."

"Through my uncle she became part of many things as well," Father Vogt said.

"Of course, she loved Nazareth and the people of her town."

Mrs. Shults seldom missed a Nazareth College graduation, Father Vogt said. He added, "She talked around graduates of Nazareth in Florida by having a party for them every year."

Born in Rochester, Mrs. Shults graduated from Nazareth Academy and earned her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Nazareth College in 1932 and completed a master of engineering degree at the University of Rochester. She worked for 20 years as a mechanical engineer with her father's firm, Perdue and Company of Rochester.


A former president of the Nazareth College Alumni Association, Mrs. Shults also served as governor of the statewide organization of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae. She also was active in Nazareth Academy's Alumnae Association.

Mrs. Shults was preceded in death in December 1975 by her husband Otto A. Shults, who had served Nazareth College for 35 years in such positions as member and chairman of the board of trustees.

In honor of her husband and father, Mrs. Shults made possible more than 150 scholarships for Nazareth College students. In 1995 Mrs. Shults became the first recipient of Nazareth College's President's Award and in May 1996 she received an honorary doctor of humanities degree for being "among the closest, most loyal friends of Nazareth College."

"Mabel Shults' passing is a great loss to the Nazareth College community and to all who knew her," said Rose Marie Boston, college president, in a written statement. "She was indeed one of the college's most giving and committed supporters, but more than that, she was a wonderful person who will be deeply and profoundly missed."

Mrs. Shults is survived by her husband William J. Smith of Boca Raton, Fla.; stepsons William Belanger and George Chartier of Boca Raton; a sister-in-law Mrs. Edward (Rena) Shults of Fairport; and many nieces and nephews.



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