

Sisters of Mercy to celebrate eight jubilees

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, regional community of Rochester, will celebrate eight jubilees this year. Two sisters will commemorate 70-year jubilees and six others will be celebrating golden jubilees.

The regional community will honor its jubilarians at Mercy Day festivities on Sept. 19 at the Mercy motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Brighton.

70 years

The 70-year jubilarians were received Aug. 30, 1928, and were professed Aug. 20, 1933.

Sister Mary Regina Feltz, RSM, taught in diocesan schools for 43 years. She began her teaching career at St. Salome's in Rochester (1927-28). Her teaching assignments in the Rochester area included stints at St. Andrew's, St. Charles Borromeo and St. Louis, Pittsford. She also taught at St. Mary's, Corning (1931-37 and 1942-45), and at schools in Auburn, Clyde and Elmira.



Upon retiring from teaching in 1977, she cared for the sick and elderly — primarily in the Greece area until 1991. A native of Penfield, she now lives with the Omega Community at the Mercy motherhouse and ministers in the spiritual apostolate.

Sister M. Colette Frank, RSM, spent 52 years in ministry at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell. She worked as a technologist and instructor in the hospital's X-ray department for more than 30 years (1943-75).



After helping establish the hospital's School of Radiography in 1948, she served as its director from 1948 to 1971. When she retired in 1975, the Rochester native served in the St. James Pastoral Care Department, both at the hospital and as an outreach visitor. Prior to her hospital ministry, Sister Colette taught for 15 years. More than a decade of that service was at St. Mary's School in Corning (1930-41).

In 1995 she returned to Rochester. She now lives with the Omega Community in the Mercy motherhouse and ministers in the spiritual apostolate.

50 years

The 50-year jubilarians were received July 4, 1948, and were professed Aug. 24, 1953.

Sister Mary Celeste Boyle, RSM, served in the ministry of education for 32 years, the majority at Our Lady of Mercy High School (1964-1982) teaching French and serving as



language department chair for many of those years. Prior to teaching at Mercy High School, she taught at St. James; St. John the Evangelist, Clyde; St. Vincent, Corning; St. Ann, Hornell, and St. Louis, Pittsford.

Since 1982 she has served the regional community administration office as office manager, receptionist and administrative secretary. She lives with the Marietta Community at the motherhouse.

"When I entered the convent I hoped by prayer and service to journey to the kingdom in companionship with the Sisters of Mercy and those with whom I would come in contact. I loved my years of teaching as well as those that I have spent in secretarial ministry with my community. I am grateful for the love and support of so many. I have faith in the Lord's work in the vineyard called religious life where I have felt called to serve the Lord with joy."

Sister Annette D'Amico, RSM, ministered in diocesan schools for 45 years. She retired from teaching in 1995 but continues to tutor elementary grade students.



She began her teaching career at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (1950-59). She also served for close to a decade at St.

John the Evangelist, Humboldt (1975-76, 1984-93). Her other teaching assignments included stints at St. Charles Borromeo; St. Cecilia; St. Ann, Hornell; St. Helen; St. Thomas the Apostle; St. Salome; St. Louis, Pittsford; and St. Monica. In addition to her tutoring she is an assistant in the regional community administrative offices. For many years Sister Annette also assisted in the motherhouse infirmary. Sister Annette lives with the Bethany Community at the motherhouse.

"St. Paul states in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 13, 'There are in the end these three things that last: faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love.' This message has been meaningful to me. It has been my guide throughout my life. As a Sister of Mercy, my ministries involved elementary teaching, especially reading, and the service to the sick in our infirmary and at an area nursing home. I'm grateful to God for my devoted family who taught me the true meaning of love and generosity. My community has strengthened me with hope during the past and present years. I'm confident that this will continue in the future."

Sister Janet Caulfield, RSM, has worked as a missionary and parish administrator for more than 30 years. She has served in the Chilean missions since their founding in Santiago in 1966, and was instrumental in their establishment. Prior to her work in Chile she taught at St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Vincent, Corning (1951-1961)



and St. Mary, Bath (1961-66). She lives with Comunidad San Luis in Santiago.

"I thank God, my community, family and friends for these 50 special years as a Sister of Mercy. My 16 years as a teacher in the parish schools of St. Louis, Pittsford, St. Vincent's, Corning and St. Mary's, Bath, while each experience was very different, I still have very fond memories of the years spent with those wonderful people. Then the thrust of my life changed completely. I felt the call to serve in Chile and now after 31 years among these beautiful people, I realize that 'the call' was a very graced moment in my life. While involved in many varied aspects of parish life, the most precious moments are those when I am privileged to administer the sacrament of baptism and to witness marriages. Finally I can say that my life has been enriched greatly and I am a better person for having lived among the Chilean people."

Sister Edith Francione (Mary Caritas), RSM, has ministered in the areas of education and prayer. She has worked on the chaplain staffs at several Rochester hospitals, beginning in the mid-'70s, and now ministers to the sick and dying in hospitals and homes upon request.



Sister Edith authored the book, *Why Not Me, Lord? The Mystery of Life and Dying with Dignity*. She also founded and directs Sister Edith's Marion Prayer group. For more than 20 years she taught in diocesan schools including St. Mary, Corning; St. Vincent, Corning; St. Cecilia, Elmira; Mt. Carmel; St. Thomas the Apostle; St. Louis, Pittsford; and Our Lady of Mercy High School. Sister Edith lives with the Marietta Community at the motherhouse.

"Religious life was a deep thought that surfaced early in my childhood. Although the world gave us the means to explore challenging undertakings and offered a wealth of opportunities, my choice was to pursue a vocation to serve God and his people.

"The motto, 'Domine non sum dignus,' 'O Lord I am not worthy,' was inscribed in my ring on the day of profession of vows. These words live on in my life. My long teaching career was important to me as my ministry of death and dying and my prayer ministry are today. Each person has been an inspiration and I feel privileged to serve them.

"I thank God for my family, my religious and priestly friends and each of you for the love and support given to me which has continued to encourage my spiritual life.

"How marvelous a gift it is to celebrate 50 years of service to God!"

Sister M. Noreen Graney, RSM, an Auburn native, has spent the past 13 years in social service ministries in Rochester and the Southern Tier. She currently ministers at Mercy Residential Services, working to provide low-cost housing and life-skills training to pregnant and parenting



teens. She had worked at Tioga County Rural Ministry, Owego (1985-96). Sister Noreen served the congregation as director of postulants (1961-67) and as a councilor on the Leadership Team

(1977-85). She served in education for 27 years also in Rochester and the Southern Tier. She was a teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School and St. Vincent School, Corning; and Catherine McAuley College (1959-67) where she also was librarian. She served Notre Dame High School, Elmira, as librarian (1967-77), and was also the Chemung County Public Library librarian.

"As I came to the belief that God wanted me to be a Sister of Mercy, I anticipated a life of teaching young children, probably in a small city and fulfilling my desire to help others to know and love God. As this latter desire was fulfilled, it was accomplished while teaching in high school and college, being a librarian in both, and also in a public library, ministering to rural people and single mothers who were in need, and in the Congregational administration. As one writer put it, 'God gave me nothing I asked for but much more than I hoped for.' "It has been a happy and fulfilling 50 years."

Sister Anne Marie Lennon, RSM, (Sister M. Stanislaus) has served in parish and education ministries. She has served as a pastoral assistant at St. Andrew Parish since 1987. She served St. Monica Parish in the same capacity, 1981-85. Since 1988 she has volunteered at the Mercy Prayer Center as a prayer guide with the



30-week Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The Rochester native also taught chemistry at Our Lady of Mercy High School for 31 years, and taught at Catherine McAuley College and St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing.

"My father said, if entering the Sisters of Mercy would make me happy, I had his permission and blessing. It truly has been a happy life for me! It was not always easy. There were many rough places and serious illness a few times, but with challenge and support from the sisters, they were all times of enrichment, growth and spiritual deepening. Through my ministries as a Sister of Mercy I met literally thousands of students and adults to whom and with whom I ministered. They have enriched and blessed my life immeasurably, and I hope I have enriched theirs as well. After my mother's initial distress, I have been blessed with support and encouragement from my family over the years, too. And my sister made up for any children I might have had: I have three nephews, a niece and 16 grandnieces and grandnephews! I truly have much to thank God for and to celebrate!"

Four SSNDs with diocesan roots to mark 230 years

School Sisters of Notre Dame will participate in a 2 p.m. May 2 liturgy at the motherhouse in Wilton, Conn., to honor 23 sisters celebrating jubilees this year. Dinner will follow. Four of the jubilarians have roots in the Rochester Diocese.



70 years

Sister Albina Kowalczyk, SSND, was born in Rochester in 1909 and entered the congregation from Holy Redeemer Parish in 1924. She made her first profession of vows in 1928 and her final profession in 1934. Sister Albina spent 33 years serving the people of Rochester. She taught at St. Boniface from 1940 to 1956; served as

principal at St. Philip Neri (1962-1968); taught at St. Boniface (1969-1973), and was principal there (1973-1975); and taught at St. Margaret Mary (1975-80).

Since 1980, Sister Albina has worked at the motherhouse, where she presently is a teacher aide with 3- and 4-year-olds in the Notre Dame Child Development Center.



60 years

Sister Loreto Reynolds, SSND, was born in Rochester in 1920 and entered the congregation from St. Peter and Paul Parish in 1935. She made her first profession in 1938 and her final profession in 1944. She worked in Holy Ghost Parish as a teacher,

then as director of religious education from 1971 to 1982; she served as director of religious education at St. Agnes in Avon from 1982 to 1989.

Sister Loreto has been a pastoral minister since 1996 at St. Helen Parish in Rochester.



50 years

Sister Petronilla Kiligréw, SSND, was born in Corning in 1918 and entered the congregation from St. Patrick Parish in 1946. She made her first profession of vows in 1948 and her final profession in 1954. She served the congregation as provincial leader from 1969 to 1973

and has taught in high schools in New York, New Jersey and Liberia, West Africa.

Sister Petronilla ministers in the pastoral care department at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton.



Sister Mary Ann Tantalo, SSND, (formerly Sister Prudentius), was born in Rochester in 1914 and entered the congregation from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in 1945. She professed

her first vows in 1948 and her final vows in 1954. She taught at St. Margaret Mary School, Rochester, (1967-1970) and was the librarian at Bishop Kearney High School (1974-1996).

She still volunteers at Kearney.