

DIOCESAN NEWS

SSNDs travel to Victor for associate ceremony

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

Mary Baker has known the School Sisters of Notre Dame since she was 6 attending an SSND-run school in Waterbury, Conn.

On April 17, at the age of 74, she became an SSND associate.

"I'm kind of old to be starting this thing," she laughed, but added, "They've just always been kind of special ... I just love being with them."

Her covenant ceremony was held at her home church, St. Patrick's in Victor — the first time the sisters have held the associate ceremony away from their motherhouse in Wilton, Conn. Baker joins 27 other SSND associates in the Northeastern Province and about 400 in the United States. All told, associates of various orders number about 11,000 in the United States.

Sister Patricia Wachter, co-director of the province's associate program, explained that the intention of holding the ceremony locally was "to give witness and encourage others." The associates program is growing gradually, she said, adding, "We call it a new breath of fresh air in the church."

Although an invitation to become an associate isn't necessary, Sister Carol Datz, SS-

ND, pastoral associate at St. Patrick's, did ask Baker a couple of years ago if she was interested.

"Because associates are really connected with your community and all, you look for signs of interest in the community, the community life," she explained.

"They are more than just friends," Sister Datz said. "They are kind of an extension of the community. They invest more of their time and life in the community than friends would do. They grow to know us through our heritage, our story, come to understand our charism and mission."

Founded as a teaching order and established in the Rochester area in 1848, the sisters have "kind of redefined" their educational mission in a broader sense, she said. The Rochester Diocese has about 20 SSNDs, of 398 in the Northeastern Province and 5,000 in the world. Most of the 20 joined Baker's relatives, friends and about six other sisters from the province, at the April 17 ceremony.

Both Baker and the women religious made promises. The sisters promised to share their charism, spirituality and lived experience of community.

Baker promised to share her faith experience as a lay person and to participate in local and communal activities.



Greg Benenati/Photo Intern

School Sisters of Notre Dame Pat Wachter, right, and Carol Datz bless Mary Baker as part of Baker's lay associate covenant ceremony April 17 at St. Patrick's Church, Victor. Sister Datz encouraged Mary to become a lay associate.

Baker, who was a pre-associate for about two years, said, "It is a commitment, but just working with the sisters, praying and being there if they need you."

Baker has been attending ceremonies at the motherhouse, a seven-hour drive, as well as prayer meetings, jubilee celebrations and associates' weekends every few months. She helped sew items for the sisters' Octoberfest fundraiser. And she's had a prayer partner at the motherhouse who links her to an even greater community.

"It makes a big difference when you know you have them all behind you," she said.

She and her husband, Arthur — who died 10 years ago — raised five adopted children. They settled in Pittsford more than 25 years ago and eventually Victor, where Baker sings in St. Patrick's traditional choir. Baker briefly served in the Navy, and has worked at Pittsford-Mendon High School, where she runs the snack bar, for 19 years.

In fact, she might have chosen to become a nun, but explained, "I just wanted to have my own family. That's only reason I didn't get to be a nun."

Baker now wears a pin that depicts two hands. Sister Wachter said it illustrates "walking hand in hand into the future."

Bishop Clark to ordain Deacon Lape a priest June 5

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain Steve Lape, a transitional deacon, to the priesthood on Saturday, June 5, at 10:30 a.m. in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester.

Deacon Lape is the only man slated for ordination in the Diocese of Rochester this year, according to Father John A. DeSocio, assistant to Bishop Clark for vocations and priestly formation.

The son of the late William B. Lape, and of Carol Ann Lape, Deacon Lape turns 33 on June 14. He grew up in Gates and attended St. Theodore's Church. As a young

man, Deacon Lape worked for a while in radio broadcasting, including deejaying at WKLX, a Rochester FM classic rock station. He recently completed his theological training for a master's degree in divinity at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto.

"I'm both excited and nervous," Deacon Lape said of his upcoming ordination in a phone interview from Toronto. "When you travel into the great unknown, you don't know what's going to happen. You just have to travel with the Spirit."

Deacon Lape said he does not know yet where he will be assigned. At his ordination Mass, he will concelebrate with Bishop Clark, he said, but on Sunday, June

6, he will mark his first Mass as main presider when he celebrates the noon liturgy in St. Theodore's.

He noted that June 6 is the feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ), a coincidence that he said seems like a providential sign for a priest celebrating his first Mass on his own.

"This is kind of a new chapter beginning on just the right note," he said.

Deacon Lape's mother, Carol Ann, said she was excited about her son's ordination, especially since it comes after years and years of work and study on his part.

"I think it's a wonderful thing he's doing," she said, adding that his sister and

grandmother are proud of him as well.

Father DeSocio commented that Deacon Lape will be an asset to the diocesan priesthood.

"He's just been an outstanding man in his prayer life," Father DeSocio said. "He's a really good people-person, very welcoming and warm with other people and full of life."

Whatever his future path, Deacon Lape said he wants to concentrate on preaching and teaching the Gospel as best he can.

"I'm no Pope John Paul II or Billy Graham," he said. "But I know God wants me for who I am, and all I have to offer, and that is the bottom line."

Wednesday, May 26, 1999 • Greystone Golf Course Catholic Schools Scholarship Golf Classic

The Catholic School Scholarship Golf Classic was conceived as a FUN way to earn some money to finance scholarships for Catholic youngsters in Catholic schools.

Our goal this year is to earn \$31,000, so that each of the 31 elementary and junior high schools in Monroe County might have \$1,000 to use in financial aid for the 99-00 school year.

We hope that you and a group of associates and friends will join us in kicking off our annual Catholic School Scholarship Golf Classic, either by playing, by coming for the putting contest, or joining us for dinner.

Julie Odenbach, Mike Piehler, Co Chairs

Schedule

10:00 Shotgun Start
Lunch At the turn
Putting Contest Following Golf
5:00 Dinner

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Corporate Sponsor	\$1,000
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Scholarship Sponsor	\$500
includes your donation of one \$500 scholarship to a needy child, and sign recognition at the putting green for the putting contest.	
Hole Sponsor	\$150
Includes your donation towards Catholic Schools and sign recognition on a selected tee.	
Golfer	\$125
Includes greens fees, cart, lunch, tee prize and dinner.	
Contributor	\$
any amount to go directly towards a scholarship. Thank you!	
Non-Golfer	\$25 dinner
Putting Contest	\$.75/person
Play for your favorite school! Sign up at the tournament!	

The Catholic Courier is a proud sponsor of the Catholic Schools Scholarship Golf Classic