

DIOCESAN NEWS

Share a Great Compassion



*Sr. M. Lucy
Native of: San Francisco, California
Prior Experience: Medical Technologist*

When I was in my mid-thirties, I felt myself drawn to God. One evening I had occasion to read closely the 25th Responsorial Psalm... "One thing I ask is to dwell in the house of the Lord forever... behold His beauty!" The words bit me profoundly. It was as if they expressed my deepest heart's desire.

A few months later I applied to the Hawthorne Dominicans and here I am. In retrospect, how simply and smoothly Our Lord guided me along the journey of discernment.

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For more information: write or call, Sr. M. Joseph, O.P.,
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A Rockin' Halloween Charity Bash

For ALL young adults (ages 21+). Presented by the Catholic Courier and Odyssey, the diocesan young-adult network.

Friday, October 29

8 p.m. to midnight

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\$10 tickets include music, finger foods and prizes. Cash bar available.
Costumes optional. Best costume prize to be awarded.

100 percent of proceeds benefit the Catholic Courier/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal, a year-round fund for individuals and families needing emergency assistance.

For tickets call Odyssey at 716-328-3228, ext. 375,
or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 375

or the Catholic Courier at 716-328-4340 or 1-800-600-3628

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Mike Mergen/Photo Intern

Blessings for new life

Expectant parents receive a blessing at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua on Oct. 3, Respect Life Sunday. From left, Trish Koczent with husband Rob (not shown); Kelly and Mark Valente, along with their son Jack; and Daniel and Aimee Hujar, along with their daughters Alexandra and Julia, gathered around Father Walter Wainwright after Mass.

Obituaries

Sister René McNiff, 76

Sister René McNiff, RSM, former president and chief executive officer of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, and Mercy System of the Southern Tier, died Sept. 26, 1999, after a long battle with cancer. She was 76.

A native of Rochester, Sister René entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1941, and professed perpetual vows in 1947. She served as a schoolteacher and principal for 20 years at St. James School, Rochester; Holy Family Grammar School, Auburn; and Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton.

In 1966, Sister René became St. James Mercy Hospital's president, a position she held until 1990. William Connor, the hospital's current president, worked as an administrator for Sister René for 25 years and remembered her fondly.

"She was quite a woman," he said. "She liked to involve a lot of people. She was very straightforward. You knew where she stood on a subject."

While president of St. James, Sister René presided over a \$23 million ex-

pansion of the hospital. After leaving the position in 1990, she took over the reins of Mercy System, parent corporation of St. James, SJM Properties Inc., and St. James Mercy Foundation. She remained with Mercy System until 1997.

After retiring from her work in health care, Sister René served as a volunteer with various Rochester-area ministries, organizing and maintaining their financial records.

Sister René is survived by her niece, Cathy Donals; her nephew, Michael (Hannah) Bernard-Donals; two grandnieces, Shoshana and Miryam; a grandnephew, Azi; and her sisters in the Mercy congregation.

About 200 people attended her funeral Mass, which was celebrated by Father Charles E. Curran on Sept. 29 at the Mercy sisters' motherhouse chapel in Brighton. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610.

- Rob Cullivan

Sister Grace Gleichauf, SSJ; 76

Sister Grace Gleichauf (Frances Martina), SSJ, died at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on Aug. 21, 1999. She was 76.

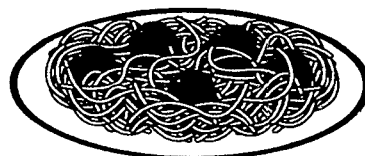
Sister Grace entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Monica Parish, Rochester, in 1941. She earned a baccalaureate in education from Nazareth College.

Sister Grace taught for 22 years in elementary schools in the diocese, including: Nazareth Model School, St. Anne's, Immaculate Conception, and St. Theodore, Rochester; and Sts. Peter and Paul, Elmira. For 23 years she worked in the tuition office at Nazareth Academy.

She is survived by five sisters: Monica Brenner of Tampa, Fla.; Mildred Wagner and Sister Grace Noel, SSJ, both of Rochester; Arlene Matthews, Port Orange, Fla.; and Doris Graham, Fort Myers Beach, Fla. She also is survived by two brothers, George of Bergen, N.Y., and Robert of Highland Beach, Fla., and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, as well as her sisters in the congregation.

Contributions may be made in her memory to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618.

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