

FEATURE

Sisters of Mercy honor 15 women, 855 years

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Regional Community of Rochester, honor 15 women religious who celebrate jubilees this year. Together, the Year 2000 jubilarians represent 855 years of service. A special tribute is planned for Sept. 23 at the congregation's annual Mercy Day celebration.

75 Years

Sister Mary Evangelist Meyer, RSM, entered the congregation Dec. 8, 1924, and professed perpetual vows Aug. 21, 1930.



Sister M. Evangelist served the parish of St. James Rochester for 32 years. From 1982-1998 her days were filled with such activities as visiting the sick and shut-ins of the parish, a telephone ministry and the "Comfort with Love Group" bereavement ministry. She moved from the St. James convent to the motherhouse in 1999. Sister M. Evangelist was one of the pioneer sisters who came at the start of St. James School in 1950, serving as a teacher and superior of the convent. She left in 1954 to be the administrator at St. Michael School, Newark. Before returning to St. James in 1970 as a teacher and later as coordinator of the Resource Center, she taught at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Holy Cross, both in Rochester; Holy Family, Auburn; St. Cecilia and St. Thomas the Apostle, Irondequoit; and St. Charles Borromeo, Greece.

60 Years

Eight sisters entered Sept. 3, 1939, and made permanent professions on Aug. 25, 1945:

Sister M. Bonaventure Hall, RSM, has served primarily in the ministry of education. She began teaching at Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1944 and retired in 1987. Over the years she served as principal of Mercy High School (1977-1983), vice principal (1969-71), and also taught mathematics and Latin. When the Mercy Sisters' college, Catherine McAuley College, was in existence, she was on its faculty as an in-service and adult education teacher from 1960-1968. She was academic dean of the college from 1967-1968.

Since her retirement in 1987 she has assisted in the congregation's finance office. Many of her hours are also spent in the gardens that surround the motherhouse. Sister Bonaventure is also one of the coordinators of an annual tradition and fundraiser, the Mercy Garage Sale.

Sister Bonaventure has also served on the congregation's elected council and was director of temporary-professed. She has served on numerous boards and committees of Mercy ministries (Notre Dame High School, Elmira and St. James Mercy Health System) and the Rochester Diocese. She is currently a member of the congregation's Assembly Steering Committee and Stewardship Committee.

She resides with the Shalom Community in the Mercy Motherhouse. Sister Bonaventure holds a Ph.D. in secondary school administration from St. John's University; an M.S. in mathematics from the University of Notre Dame and a B.A. in Latin from Nazareth College. She also attended Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Following 11 years of service as the congregation's archivist, retiring in 1996, **Sister Jane Hasbrouck, RSM**, (Sister Mary Cyprian) continues to serve the congregation as a part-time secretary and is a volunteer for Compeer. Prior to her ministry in the archives, she served the congrega-



tion as its administrative secretary from 1971-1982. Sister Jane was involved in secondary school education for 30 years. She taught primarily English, Latin and math at Holy Family School, Auburn, for six years and at Our Lady of Mercy High School for 21, where she also served as attendance secretary for three years. She was also vice principal for a time at Holy Family, Mercy High School and Notre Dame High School, Elmira.

Sister Jane is a member of the St. Rita Community. She has an M.S. in Latin (St. Bonaventure University), a B.A. in math and English (Nazareth College) and is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

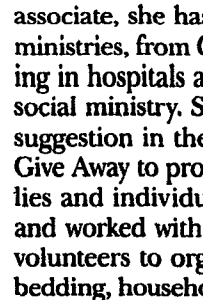
Sister Mary Patrick Kennedy, RSM,



ministers at the congregation's Kate's Tea and Gift Shop, assisting with the finances and as a shopkeeper. She keeps a busy volunteer schedule around the motherhouse since her retirement in 1991. Sister Patrick ministered for 27 years in the field of nutrition. Her assignment before retiring was as a clinical nutritionist and certified diabetes educator for Group Health, dividing her time between the Wilson Health Center and the Greece Health Center, Rochester. She also served as a dietician at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell (1964-76); then briefly at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira. She started as teacher at St. Mary Elementary School, Corning (1942-45), and then taught home economics at Our Lady of Mercy High School (1945-55) and Notre Dame High School, Elmira (1955-63).

Sister Patrick is a member of the St. Cecilia (Rochester) Community. She received a B.S. in home economics from Columbia University, took graduate course at Cornell University; and completed her dietetic internship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. She is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

For 32 years **Sister Mary Jude Rockenbrock, RSM**, has been ministering to the community of Hornell through her work at St. Ann School and Parish. She taught junior high grades from 1968-1977 and, in recent years as a pastoral



associate, she has performed a variety of ministries, from Communion calls to visiting in hospitals and directing the parish's social ministry. She is well-known for her suggestion in the early 1990s for a Giant Give Away to provide relief to needy families and individuals in the Hornell area, and worked with an ecumenical group of volunteers to organize donated clothing, bedding, household wares and more.

Prior to her work in Hornell Sister Jude taught in several diocesan schools in Rochester: St. Andrew, St. Vincent, St. John the Evangelist, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel; St. Cecilia, Elmira; and St. Mary, Corning.

Sister Jude is a member of the St. Ann Community in Hornell. She has a B.A. in history (Nazareth College) and is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Sister Mary Ann Steinmetz, RSM, who retired in 1993 from a ministry in secondary education, serves in the spiritual apostolate, a ministry of prayer.



Sister Mary Ann taught Latin and Ger-

man for 33 years: at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester (1939-55) and Notre Dame High School, Elmira (1955-1972). From 1971-76 she was core member of the former St. Mary's House of Prayer, Corning. From 1976-1993 she worked in the Mercy High School media center, serving as audiovisual coordinator and in other clerical capacities.

She is a member of the Shalom Community at the motherhouse. She has an M.A. in German and Latin (Catholic University, Washington, D.C.), a B.A. (Syracuse University) and is a graduate of Naples Academy. Sister Mary Anne taught for 4-1/2 years at Naples Academy (now Naples Central School) prior to entering the Mercy congregation.

Sister Mary André Streb, RSM, served



in various health care ministries in the Southern Tier for more than 50 years. She retired in 1992 and moved to the motherhouse where she holds a weekly wellness clinic.

She had served since 1980 as an advocate for the elderly in nursing homes for the Steuben County Office for the Aging in Bath. From 1973-1979 she was a public health nurse in Steuben County. For 29 years (between 1941-73) she served at St. James Mercy Hospital (now St. James Mercy Health System) in a variety of nursing roles — including head nurse, night supervisor, nursing arts instructor, director of nursing services and recovery room nurse. She was also a nurse in the congregation's infirmary and a school nurse at Mercy High School. She has a B.S. in nursing education (Marquette University), an RN from St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School. Sister André is a member of the Marietta Community at the Mercy Motherhouse.

Sister Mary Virginia Sweeney, RSM,



ministered in nursing, teaching and administration. She retired in 1995 from her ministry in administration after serving as secretary and office manager for the congregation for 11 years. She also provided clerical support at Our Lady of Mercy High School (1983-84).

She taught in diocesan schools (St. Mary, Corning; Holy Cross, St. Charles Borromeo, St. James, St. Andrew and St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester) from 1948-83, taking a six-year break to resume nursing at St. James Mercy Hospital (now St. James Mercy Health System) in Hornell. She began as a nurse at St. James Mercy Hospital in 1944, and also served as a nurse

at Mercy High School.

Sister Virginia is a member of the St. James Community. She has an RN certificate (St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing) and is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Sister Mary Concepta Walsh, RSM, has



ministered to the people in Indianola, Miss., in pastoral, prayer and rural ministry since 1983. Although she retired in 1996, she continues to volunteer at St. Benedict the Moor Parish in Indianola. She taught in Rochester diocesan elementary schools for 27 years; at St. Vincent, Corning (1957-63); Mount Carmel, Rochester (1951-57, 1963-65); and at St. Salome, Rochester (1942-51, 1973-77). From 1965 to 1973 she did social work and outreach ministry at the Joseph Avenue Center in Rochester's inner city. In her prayer ministry in the Rochester area she worked at the Rochester Cenacle (1977-78); directed prayer development for children at St. Salome School (1978-81) and spent a year of renewal and prayer ministry in Elmira (1981-82). Prior to going to Mississippi in 1983, she attended Washington Theological Union for a year. She is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School and received an AAS from Nazareth Normal School.

50 Years

Six sisters entered on Sept. 4, 1949, and made permanent professions on Aug. 18, 1955. As they completed their postulancy, their reception on July 2, 1950, was the first ceremony to take place in the motherhouse chapel on Blossom Road.



For most of her 42 years in the ministry of education **Sister M. Esther Carstater, RSM**, has worked at Mercy-sponsored high schools. She has served Our Lady of Mercy High School (1957-1959 and 1962 to present) as a teacher and since 1962 as librarian/library media specialist. While at Notre Dame High School in Elmira she taught Latin and English and was also the school librarian. She spent five years teaching elementary grades at St. Andrew School (1952-1954) and St. Charles Borromeo School (1954-1957) at the beginning of her career in education.

Since 1987, Sister Esther has been a volunteer with the summer prison program at the Children's Center at Bedford Hills, N.Y. Children of all ages come together for a week's vacation with their incarcerated

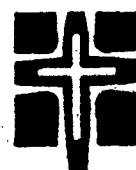
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Experience

faith and values-based COMMUNITY

Life dedicated to SERVICE

Deeply centered on PRAYER



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