

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Obituary

### Sr. Specksgoor taught 38 years

Sister Teresa Gerard Specksgoor, SSJ, died at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary on June 27, 2000. She was 87.

A native of Rochester, Sister Teresa Gerard entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Michael's Parish in 1929. She attended Nazareth College where she completed her teaching training and earned degrees in education, English and history.

Sister Teresa Gerard taught for 38 years in parochial schools of the diocese, including St. John the Evangelist, Greece; St. Mary, Dansville; St. Mary, Elmira; St. Agnes, Avon; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Mary, Canandaigua; St. James, Waverly; and St. Anne's, Palmyra. She also served as principal at St. Mary, St. James, St. Agnes and St. Anne's.

After a serious automobile accident in 1971, Sister Teresa Gerard spent three years at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary. In 1974, she retired to the motherhouse. She finally moved to St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in 1985.

"She was a very happy, delightful person to be with," said Sister Mary Paul Geck, SSJ. "She made everyone feel really comfortable and had a zest for life."

Sister Teresa Gerard is survived by her sister, three brothers, many nieces and nephews, and her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel on June 30 and burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Contributions may be made in her memory to St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14618.

—Liza R. Mugnolo

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Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

### Sisterly blessing

Sister Sharon Bailey, SSJ, of Rochester, splashes a blessing of water onto a former sister, Dawn Minch Lewis, of Manassas, Va., at the Sisters of St. Joseph Reunion 2000 at the Pittsford motherhouse July 8. This was the second such reunion, held to further a partnership in prayer and service. About 110 former sisters and 140 sisters attended the weekend reunion.

### Recognizing

★ Several students at Bishop Kearney High School, Irondequoit, received awards at the school's commencement ceremony June 25 at Eastman Theater on the Ridge.

★ Steven Dicheck received the General Excellence Award for maintaining his class highest academic average, 97.84 percent; Kristina Rozanski received General Excellence, Second-in-Merit Award for maintaining the second-highest average, 97.59 percent;

★ Kara Noto and Brian Eastman were both awarded the Founder's Medal, presented to a female and male graduate for exemplifying the ideals and spirit of Kearney;

★ Lindsay Schreiber and Thomas J. Flint were named Scholar-Athletes for maintaining high academic averages while playing on several school athletic teams.

★ The following students received specific awards for academic merit: Heather Meagher for art; Charles Reagan for business; David Schneider for computer science; Kara Noto for English; Kathryn Cardella for French; Kristina Rozanski for math; Michael DeReu for music; Stephen Oswald for religion; Maura Ballerstein for science; David Bentivegna for social studies; and Rebecca Sutherland for Spanish.

★ The students, faculty and staff of St. John the Evangelist School, Rochester, collected more than \$700 during Lent for the Holy Childhood Association, which assists needy children in both the Diocese of Rochester and abroad.

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## Jubilarians

### Sr. Fishette marks 65th year in order

Sister Pierre Fishette, born in Rochester, celebrated her 65th anniversary as a Holy Spirit Missionary Sister June 18. Twelve Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in all celebrated the anniversary of their professions that day, the feast of the Most Holy Trinity, at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Techny, Ill.



Baptized at St. Michael's Church in Newark, Sister Pierre attended St. Francis Xavier School and Nazareth Academy, both in Rochester, and received a bachelor's degree from Nazareth College in 1932. That same year, Sister Pierre joined the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. She celebrated her first profession of vows in 1935. She continued her studies and obtained a master's degree from DePaul University, Chicago.

Since 1946, Sister Pierre's teaching career and missionary work has taken her to Rome, Italy (1946-1948); Fujen University, Peking, China (1948-1949); Holy Ghost College, Manila, Philippines (1949-1955); Accra, Ghana, West Africa, where she was principal at St. Mary's Secondary School (1955-1970); and back to Rome, where she performed secretarial work (1971-1984). She returned to Techny in 1984, where her ability to speak several languages has been helpful in the community, which is international and multilingual.

Sister Pierre is now living in retirement in Maria Hall at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Techny.

### SSND celebrates her golden jubilee

Sister Mary Trinita, SSND, celebrates her golden jubilee this year as well as her retirement as an educator in the Baltimore School System for 53 years, 23 of which she served as principal.



A Rochester native, Sister Mary Trinita entered the Sisters of Notre Dame at age 18, out of her home parish, Holy Redeemer. She attended Holy Redeemer School, Mercy High School (class of 1947) and the University of Rochester. She also went to the University of St. Louis and received a bachelor's degree in education at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, in Baltimore, and later her master's and specialist degrees in education back at UR. She taught at the School of the Holy Childhood in Henrietta while attending the University of Rochester.

"She's very dedicated to her work and to her vows," said her sister, Rosemarie Warren of Spencerport.

Sister Mary Trinita will continue living in the Baltimore province. A private dinner will be held in her honor July 16 at Hawthorne's Restaurant in Rochester.

—Liza R. Mugnolo

### Correction

In the June 29 issue of the *Catholic Courier*, Trish Armendinger was misidentified in a photo as her sister, Diane Spackman-Romano. Both sisters were present to honor their late father, Thomas Spackman, a former POW, at the unveiling of the POW bench at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on June 24 at White Haven Memorial Park, Pittsford.