

FEATURE

through junior high school. Sister has also ministered as justice coordinator of the Rochester Regional Community of Sisters of Mercy (1984-86). Presently, as assistant director of Mercy Center with the Aging, whose staff she joined in 1983, she lends her expertise to the community-based, comprehensive model of education and training for caregivers and older adults, and to coordinating the Advocacy Committee on Older Adult Issues, the hallmarks of this ministry.



Sister Mary Aid Lacagnina, RSM, said the best description of her journey as a Sister of Mercy was in the words, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me ... for he who is mighty has done great things for me and

holy is his name."

Most of Sister Mary Aid's life as a Sister of Mercy has been serving in elementary and secondary education. She received her B.S. in education from Nazareth College and has taught at the following Rochester schools: Holy Cross (1953-56); St. Charles Borromeo (1956-62 and 1968-69); St. James (1962-63); Annunciation (1964-66); St. Salome (1966-68); and St. Mary, Bath, in 1971.

Sister Mary Aid has also served in the administrative offices of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, as well as on the staff at St. James School (1971-73) and St. Cecilia School (1979-88). From 1973-79, she ministered on the staff of Our Lady of Mercy High School and since 1988 has served in the library, enrollment office, communications office and as a teacher aide there.

In 1984, Sister Mary Aid was the recipient of a certificate of merit for her "years of faithful and valuable service to both the students and community" of the Diocese of Rochester. She was also awarded letters of commendation from both WXXI and the diocese for her years of dedication as diocesan representative to the Instructional Television Service Committee.



Sister Mary C. Sullivan, RSM, said, "When I reflect upon these 50 years as a Sister of Mercy, in my mind's eye, I see those who have walked the path of Mercy before me. I see the House of Mercy on Baggot Street overflowing

with homeless girls and women; Catherine cradling an orphaned baby in the cholera hospital on Townsend Street; Elizabeth

Moore in a Limerick prison, holding the hands of a woman about to be hanged; Clare Moore making bandages and meals in the hospital wards of the Crimea; and Mary Gonzaga Barrie in a hovel visiting a family of nine, every one of whom had typhus fever. In them and in all our nameless sisters who with their very lives have accompanied the materially poor, I see the pure, radical solidarity with those who suffer that runs like a true, God-given plumb line through the heart of our long vocation as Sisters of Mercy."

As one of the world's foremost authorities on Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, Sister Mary, (formerly Sister Mary Petrus), lectures and writes for national and international audiences. She was awarded the following degrees in English: B.A., Nazareth College; M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame; she also earned a M.Th. degree in systematic theology from Heythrop College of the University of London, England. Sister Mary has taught in the following Rochester schools: St. Louis (1953-56); St. Charles (1956-58) and Our Lady of Mercy High School (1958-60). In 1963 she joined the faculty of Catherine McAuley College and from 1965-67 served as its president. She ministered on the faculty of Marymount College, Tarrytown (1967-69) and taught at Malcolm-King Harlem Community Extension College (summer 1969, '71). In 1969 Sister Mary joined the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts at the Rochester Institute of Technology and in 1976-77 was visiting scholar at Cambridge University, England. She returned to RIT in 1977 and served for the next 10 years as dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Since 1981, she has been a professor of language and literature in RIT's College of Liberal Arts and in 2000 was named chair of the Language and Literature Department.

Among her many awards and distinctions are election as a Danforth Associate (1974-80); Outstanding Alumna from Nazareth College (1984); Exemplary Catholic Woman Award (St. Bernard's Institute, 1991); the RIT Eisenhower Award for Outstanding Teaching (1996); and the Mercy Higher Education Colloquium Leadership Award (1998).

Besides her many publications and presentations on Catherine McAuley, Sister Mary has given presentations and has written editorials on the purposes and values of liberal education as well as publications on Theresa of Avila, Joseph Conrad, Florence Nightingale, Mary Clare Moore and various theological and ministerial topics.

Sister Janet Wahl, RSM, said, "As I look back on these 50 years of journeying with



the faith community of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, I am immensely grateful to God for this call to be a person of faith. I am also in awe at all the support and affirmation I have received through these years from family,

friends, members of my own and other religious communities, and from so many persons with whom I have shared this journey, both at home and abroad. May God bless each of you!"

Sister Janet (formerly Sister Mary Basil) has served in elementary and secondary education, administration, missionary work and health care.

A Rochester native and graduate of Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Mercy High School, Sister Janet taught in the following elementary schools: St. Thomas (1953-54); St. Salome, Rochester (1954-56); St. Michael, Newark (1956-60); and St. Patrick, Elmira (1960-61).

She entered the field of secondary education at Notre Dame High School, where she served both as teacher (1961-62) and as vice-principal (1967-72). She also taught at Our Lady of Mercy (1962-63) and Cardinal Mooney (1963-67) high schools.

Sister Janet was assistant superior of the Sisters of Mercy from 1973-1977, and after language studies she served as a missionary in Santiago, Chile (1978-83). She then returned to the states and entered the health-care field, after being awarded her certification as a physician's assistant in 1986. Sister Janet served at Park Ridge Nursing Home (1986-88) and in the following outreach clinics of St. James Mercy Health: Greenwood and Troupsburg Health Centers (1988-89); the Urgent Care Center, Hornell (1989-97); and the Cameron Valley Health Center (1989-99).

25 years



Sister Anne Curtis, RSM, and Sister Nancy Kelly, RSM, are celebrating 25 years as Sisters of Mercy. They entered religious life on Aug. 28, 1975. Sister Nancy professed final vows Oct. 9, 1982, and Sister Anne celebrated her final profession April 23, 1983.

Sister Anne said, "The words of the prophet Micah have always captured me and been my desire in the way I live: "This is what Yahweh requires of you, to act just-

ly, love tenderly and walk humbly with your God" — justice, love and God are my greatest hope, challenge and desire. A look back through my 25 years as a Sister of Mercy fills me with such deep gratitude for all who have taught me the truth of Micah's words and called me to live them. It has been my greatest joy to be a woman of Mercy among so many good people also desirous of living the words of Micah."

With strong backgrounds in psychology (B.A., St. John Fisher College); theology, pastoral ministry (M.A., St. Michael College, Winooski, Vt.); and proficiency in Spanish (Instituto de Idiomas, Cochabamba, Bolivia); Sister Anne's quarter-century as a Sister of Mercy has spanned the areas of secondary education and campus ministry at Our Lady of Mercy High School (1984-86); social service at Melita House (1986-87 and 1991-95); social justice coordination for the Rochester Regional Community (1986-87; 1991-95); service as a missionary in Santiago, Chile (1987-91); and lobbyist at NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby in Washington, D.C. (1995-97, 1999 to present.)

Sister Nancy remarked, "I want to give thanks to my parents who were my first example of faith, love and service. I also thank my brother and sisters for the love and support they have given to me. I am grateful, as well, to all others: family, friends, teachers and co-ministers. I thank you for enriching my life. I thank God for my call to the Sisters of Mercy."



A native of Dansville, Sister Nancy entered the Sisters of Mercy with undergraduate degrees in physical education: A.S. from Mt. Ida College, Newton Center, Mass., and B.S. from Ithaca College. In 1975,

Sister Nancy joined the faculty of Our Lady of Mercy High School. From 1977-1980, she taught at Notre Dame High School, Elmira, and then rejoined the faculty of Mercy. She served there as dean of students from 1983-1985, and then, having completed her M.A. in educational administration from Loyola College, Baltimore, combined her teaching and administrative skills at St. Joseph School, Penfield; and St. Andrew's School, Rochester. From 1986-93 she was the principal of St. Joseph's School. In 1993, Sister Nancy returned to Notre Dame High School, Elmira, as campus minister. She served in this capacity until 1995, when she became assistant principal for student life; and then, in 1997, she assumed additional responsibilities as director of admissions.



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