

MILESTONES

Jubilarians accumulate 995 'years of Mercy'

The 16 jubilarians of the Sisters of Mercy Regional Community of Rochester represent 995 years of service. Celebrating 80, 75, 70, 60 and 50 years of service, they will be honored at the Mercy Day celebration at the Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y., on Sept. 21. The Mercy sisters also hold in sacred memory their deceased jubilarians: **Sisters Mary Felix Monahan; Mary Pierre VanVliet; Mary Emerita Brill; Mary Constance Casey; Mary Amadeus Houston; Mary DeLourdes Kennedy; Mary Jeanne McNiff; Miriam Joseph Newman; Mary Joan Fink; Irene Gardner; Mary Agnes Theresa Georger; Mary Martin Holleran; Mary Rosaria Hughes; Mary Florita Kast; Mary Alberta Kuhn; Mary Ancilla Mackin; Mary Eugene Pearson; Mary Rene McNiff; Mary Gemma Palermo; Marlene McQueeney; and Mary Rosaire Norton.**

80 years

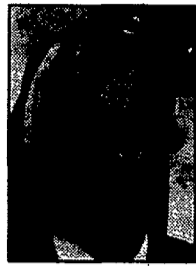


Born in Erie County in 1903, **Sister Mary Julia Ryan** came to Rochester in the summer following her sophomore year in high school. She entered the Sisters of Mercy on September 8, 1921, and was received on July 6, 1922.

Sister Julia had a 45-year teaching career. She taught at St. John's, Clyde; Mt. Carmel, St. Salome's, Holy Cross and Our Lady of Mercy in Rochester; St. Vincent's, Corning; St. Ann's, Hornell; and Holy Family, Auburn. After retiring from teaching she worked in the library at Our Lady of Mercy High School and tutored at Mt. Carmel Elementary School. When she heard of the need for volunteers at the jail, she signed up and gave it her all. She enjoyed making a difference in the lives of the incarcerated because she felt she might increase their chance for employment after prison. She retired from her ministry of tutoring in jails in 1992 at the age of 88.

Sister Julia has found her 80 years of religious life very fulfilling. Among the many blessings she mentions are time for prayer, growth in knowledge of faith and love of God, and a chance to grow intellectually and spiritually. In her 99th year, she is still enriching the lives of others with her wit, spirituality and love of life.

75 Years



Sister Mary Carmella Coene entered the Sisters of Mercy on December 8, 1926, and was received on August 27, 1927.

Her teaching ministry has spanned seven decades. She began teaching in 1927 at St. Patrick's in Elmira, and over the years taught at Holy Cross and Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester; Holy Family, Auburn; St. Ann's, Hornell; and Notre Dame High School, Elmira. She taught full time until 1999 and continues in-school tutoring today at the age of 93.

In December 1995, she was awarded the Twin Tiers Outstanding Educator Award. The award honors educators who have had a great impact on the lives of their students.

Sister Carmella has no plans to retire any time soon. "As an educator, I have personally touched the lives of thousands of young men and women who, I pray, have gone forth to 'make a difference,'" she said.

70 years

Mercy Sisters celebrating 70 years entered the order on Aug. 15, 1931, and were received on June 7, 1932.



Born 1915 in Towner, N.D., to Joseph and Marie Burkhardtzmeyer, **Sister Mary Roberta Burkhardtzmeyer** taught for 31 years in diocesan primary grades, specializing in first-grade education. She

taught at St. Ann's, Hornell, for 18 years and at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Holy Cross, Rochester; St. Rita's, Webster; St. Louis, Pittsford; and St. John's, Clyde. She later engaged in social work, operated a retirement home and made visitations. She is now active in the spiritual apostolate and resides at the motherhouse in Rochester. Sister Roberta is an accomplished poet and has penned numerous poems during her 70 years as a Sister of Mercy.



Sister Mary Eileen FitzGibbons is a native of Hornell. She taught grades one through five in diocesan elementary schools for 47 years, 35 of them in Elmira. She spent 21 years at St. Patrick's and also taught at St. Cecilia's, St. Mary's

and Our Lady of Lourdes, all in Elmira. In the Rochester area, she taught at St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Joseph, Penfield; and St. Mary's, St. Andrew's and Mt. Carmel in the city. She retired from teaching in 1978 and was the convent cook at Our Lady of Lourdes until 1979. Sister Mary Eileen has resided at the motherhouse in Rochester since 1979 and ministers as in the spiritual apostolate.



A native of White Mills, Pa., **Sister Mary Sylvester Gehl** taught elementary education for 40 years before retiring in 1971.

Her teaching career brought her to numerous schools within the Rochester Diocese, including Holy Family, Auburn; St. Patrick's, Elmira; St. Vincent's, Corning; St. Ann's, Hornell; St. John's, Clyde; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Rita's, Webster; and Mt. Carmel, St. John the Evangelist, St. Charles, St. Thomas, St. Salome's and St. Andrew's in Rochester.

After retiring, Sister Sylvester tutored and provided office assistance at St. James School in Rochester (1971-73) and volunteered on the motherhouse switchboard (1973-80). Since 1980, she has been in the spiritual apostolate in the motherhouse.



Sister Mary Leon Gilman is a native Rochesterian and a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

A 50-year career as an educator brought Sister Leon to Mt. Carmel, St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Andrew in Rochester; St. Cecilia's, Elmira; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Mary's, Bath; and St. Mary's, Corning. Upon her retirement in 1981, Sister Leon continued at St. Andrew's as a tutor until 1986. Since 1987, she has lived in the motherhouse in Rochester, spending her time in the spiritual apostolate and volunteering as a seamstress for Independent Living for Seniors. However, Sister Leon may be best known for her homemade chocolates, which have earned her the nickname "Sister Delicious."



Born in Elmira in 1906, **Sister Mary Alphonsus Kruckow** was a parish visitor at St. Ignatius Loyola Parish, Hornell, from 1987 until 1995. She was assistant director of purchasing (1967-1969) and director of purchasing at St.

James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, from 1969 to 1987. Earlier in her career, Sister Mary Alphonsus taught math, science and religion at Mercy High School (1933-52). She then served on the regional community's leadership team, was assistant director of novices (1952-61) and motherhouse manager (1952-67). She has resided at the motherhouse in Rochester since 1995.

Continued on next page

Our thanks to God for the faithfulness of the following vocations from our Parish:

Priests: William Endres, Robert Kennedy, Robert O'Halloran, William Rewak, William Shannon, Conrad Sundholm, John Weisenborn

Brothers: Terry Shaw, Gerald Sundholm
Sisters: Mary Elleh Marshall, Dorothy Schlueter, Marion Backus, Joan Minella

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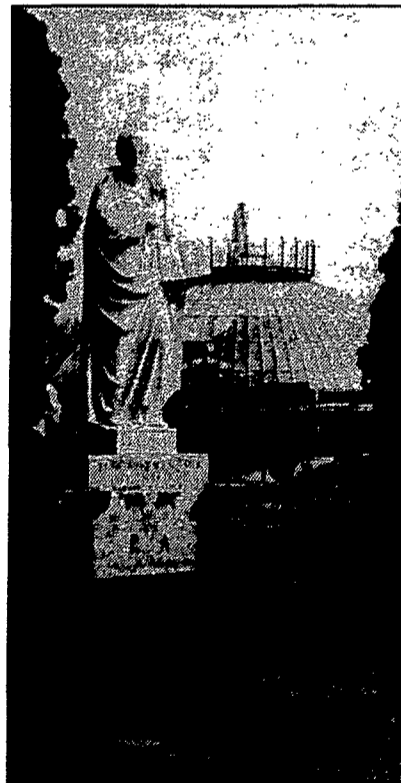
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"If up to this time, indecision and negligence have taken hold of our souls, let us get rid of them; and let us run like madmen not only toward God but also toward our neighbors, who alone receive what we cannot give to God, since He has no need of our goods."

-St. Anthony M. Zaccaria
Letter II

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