

Sr. Agnes Cecilia Troy, SSJ

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Sister Agnes Cecilia Troy, SSJ, died at the age of 90 on Oct. 2, 2003, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Pittsford. Sister Troy, commonly called Mother Agnes Cecilia, had served as mother general of the local congregation from 1963 to 1975.

A native of Rochester, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1931. She taught second-graders at St. Mary School in Elmira from 1933 until 1934, when she became a first-grade teacher at Nazareth Hall. In 1946, she left Nazareth Hall to open Mother of Sorrows School in Rochester with two other sisters, including longtime friend Sister Joseph Gilmory Russell.

In 1952 Sister Troy left Mother of Sorrows to become principal of Rochester's Blessed Sacrament School, where she served until 1953, when she became principal of Nazareth Academy. She led the academy for the next 10 years, until becoming mother general for her order in 1963. She continued in leadership, becoming local coordinator for the motherhouse in 1975 and department head for congregational services at the motherhouse in 1984.

Obituaries

Msgr. William Shannon presided at the Oct. 6 funeral Mass for Sister Troy. Concelebrating were Fathers Bruce Ammering and Thomas Statt, a former first-grade student of Sister Troy.

In his homily, Msgr. Shannon noted that Sister Troy was not only a woman "born to command," but she also was a caring person.

"She treated sisters as individuals whose rights and dignity she respected. To her they were never 'subjects.' They were co-workers with her in the spread of God's kingdom," Msgr. Shannon said in his homily.

The congregation estimated that Sister Troy's funeral was attended by about 400 people, which it termed a testimony to the lives she touched during her lifetime. Sister Russell said the chapel and great room of the motherhouse were both filled with a mix of religious and lay people, and ill sisters watched the funeral on closed-circuit television from two other rooms in the motherhouse.

Louis Langie, retired vice president of Chase Lincoln First Bank,

had kept in contact with Sister Troy since she was his first-grade teacher almost 70 years ago.

"She had the respect and love from all with whom she came in contact. They didn't refer to her as Sister Agnes Cecilia, we all kind of thought of her as Mother Agnes Cecilia," said Langie, a parishioner at St. Thomas More Parish in Brighton.

Langie and Sister Russell agreed that Sister Troy possessed unique gifts and deep spirituality.

"Her special gift was radiating love. She really made people feel good about themselves. She was compassionate and she was generous to a fault, but her kindness was her greatest quality," Sister Russell said.

"She had that spirit of gratitude that is so hard to find. Her spirit of prayer affected us all. She was a woman of prayer, and we were all benefactors of that," she added.

Sister Troy is survived by numerous cousins as well as her sisters in the St. Joseph congregation.

Internment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester. Memorial donations may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Ministry Fund, 150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618.

Sr. Lois Ann Sanick, 68

Franciscan Sister Lois Ann Sanick, 68, a native of Rochester, died Sept. 5, 2003, at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo.

She joined the Congregation of the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, N.Y., in 1955. She served in numerous assignments, mostly in New York state, in teaching, parish ministry, and as a child-care worker and counselor.

She is survived by her aunt, Dorothy Sarzyniak, and several cousins. Her funeral liturgy was held on Sept. 9 at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany.

A memorial Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 10 at St. Andrew Church, 923 Portland Ave., Rochester.

Sr. Rosalma Hayes, at 89

Sister of St. Joseph Rosalma Hayes, 89, died at the congregation's motherhouse on Aug. 19, 2003.

Sister Hayes was a member of the order for 74 years, having entered in 1929 from her home parish of St. Mary's in Elmira not long after her 15th birthday. She received her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College and her master's in Spanish from Western Reserve University.

Following teaching assignments at Nazareth Academy (1931-41) and DeSales High School in Geneva (1941-50), she was principal of St. Agnes High School until 1960. She then was dean of residents and Spanish instructor at Nazareth College for four years.

In 1964 she founded the Sisters of St. Joseph Mission in Brazil. She was elected to congregational leadership in 1969, following which she was engaged in special project research and writing for 20 years.

Sister Hayes is survived by her sister, Regina Baglin of Florida; her cousin, Father Bart O'Brien; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the congregation.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated Aug. 21 in the motherhouse chapel with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Contributions in her memory may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618.

Sr. M. Virginia Sweeney, RSM, 83

Sister of Mercy Mary Virginia Sweeney, 83, died Sept. 21, 2003, at the congregation's motherhouse in Brighton.

Sister Sweeney entered the Sisters of Mercy from her home parish of St. John in Spencerport in 1939 following her graduation from Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1938. A registered nurse, she received her nursing certificate from St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell in 1944.

In addition to two nursing assignments at St. James Mercy and one at

Mercy High School in the 1940s, Sister Sweeney served again as a nurse at St. James Mercy from 1958-64. She also taught at a number of diocesan schools including St. Mary, Corning; and Holy Cross, St. Charles, St. Mary, St. James, St. Andrew and St. Thomas, all in Rochester. She then worked in the Mercy High School library and as a clerical assistant for the congregation. Since her retirement in 1995, she had served in the order's spiritual apostolate.

Sister Sweeney is survived by her sister, Mary (Richard) Burke; brother, Robert (Mary Lou) Sweeney; nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins; and her sisters in the congregation.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel on Sept. 24, 2003, by Father Robert Bradler with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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

Sr. Mary Patrick Fleeton, SSJ, 90

Sister of St. Joseph Mary Patrick Fleeton, 90, died Sept. 10, 2003, at the congregation's motherhouse.

An immigrant from Ireland, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Blessed Sacrament Parish in 1931. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Nazareth College.

Sister Fleeton taught in diocesan schools for 40 years, including Blessed Sacrament, Sacred Heart,

Immaculate Conception, Holy Rosary and St. Anthony of Padua, all in Rochester; and Immaculate Conception in Ithaca. In 1973, she became a pastoral assistant, initially at Holy Ghost Parish in Gates, and later at St. Gregory Parish in Marion. She then utilized her training in library sciences as librarian at DeSales High School in Geneva (1980-86). After serving the congregation in other capacities, she retired in

1992.

She is survived by her sister, Kathleen Mooney; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the congregation.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated Sept. 12 in the motherhouse chapel with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618.