

Mercy high starts leadership search

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Officials at Brighton's Our Lady of Mercy High School will soon be looking for a new president and principal. At the end of June 2004, Mercy Sister Carol Wulforst will retire as president and the school's first lay principal, Evelyn Kirst, will resign.

Sister Wulforst, who will have served as president for 14 years, has seen the school through many changes, including the implementation of the middle-school program, a new building addition and an ongoing capital campaign.

"I leave the school confident that our board will bring in a new team who will shape the future of Our Lady of Mercy and guide the school to the next level," she said in an Oct. 8 press release.

"Sister Carol is someone who is the heart of Mercy," Board of Trustees President Kathleen Cahill Murray said in an interview with the *Catholic Courier*. "She wants the best for Mercy ... She is just an incredibly gifted woman."

Kirst has served in her position for nearly 10 years. Murray said Kirst has been responsible for incorporating the heritage and traditions of the Sisters of Mercy into the life of the faculty, staff, students and parents of the school. She noted that high-school principals today have to deal with many issues that past principals wouldn't have even dreamed of, adding that she has the utmost respect for Kirst.

In an interview with the *Catholic Courier*, Kirst said she has been working in school administration for almost 33 years. She said she isn't sure what she'll do after leaving Mercy, but believes the time is right to go.

"It's like an inner feeling, when you know that it's ready," Kirst said. "For the first time in my life I'm leaving one job without having another. (School administration) is what I know, but I like change."

Kirst is proud of her accomplishments at Mercy, but also thinks her resignation will give a new principal a chance to accomplish new things.



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Combined confirmation

Bishop Matthew H. Clark marks the forehead of 13-year-old Tiffany Wheeler with chrism, as Tiffany's uncle Jerry Wheeler looks on. During the Oct. 22 ceremony at St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, the sacrament of confirmation was administered to youths from St. Mary's as well as St. Bridget/St. Joseph in East Bloomfield, St. Dominic's in Shortsville, St. Patrick's in Victor, and St. Francis/St. Felix in Clifton Springs and Phelps.

Jackals, food bank raise money

Food Bank of the Southern Tier and the Elmira Jackals hockey team will come together Tuesday, Nov. 11, for their second annual Face-Off Against Hunger charity dinner. It will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Elmira Country Club.

General-admission tickets are on sale through the food bank and are \$35 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will support both the food bank, which is a re-

gional agency of Catholic Charities, and hunger-relief efforts in the Southern Tier. The ticket price includes a player meet and greet, a buffet-style dinner and the chance to join a silent auction, which includes Jackals collectibles. There are also sponsorship and program advertising packages available.

For more information, contact Bonnitta Seely at the Food Bank Southern Tier 607/796-6061, ext. 15.

Sister Dorothy Cooney, SSJ, 89

Sister of St. Joseph Dorothy Cooney (Sister Anna Gertrude) died Sept. 27, 2003, at the congregational motherhouse. She was 89.

Sister Cooney entered the congregation from her home parish, Rochester's St. Augustine, in 1932. She received her bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College in 1947 and taught in diocesan schools for 40 years. Her assignments included Sacred Heart, St. Thomas More and St. Francis Xavier schools in Rochester and St. Anthony School in Elmira. She then served for 20 years as a classroom assistant and volunteer at Christ the King

Parish in Irondequoit, retiring in 1998.

She is survived by her brother, Don Cooney of Churchville; sister, Rosella Hartman; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the congregation. Her memorial Mass was celebrated in the Motherhouse Chapel on Oct. 4 with burial in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph, 150 French Road, Rochester NY 14618.

Obituary

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