

Mercy HS names new president

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

After many satisfying years as principal of Rochester's Wilson Magnet High School, Suzanne Johnston retired in June 2002 from full-time duty — or so she thought.

"I had really met all my goals. I was in no way looking for work," Johnston recalled.

That all changed in recent months when Johnston pursued the chance to return to her alma mater, Our Lady of Mercy High School. On Feb. 12, it was announced that Johnston would become president of the all-female Catholic school, effective July 1, 2004.

"I was intrigued by the possibility of making a contribution. Mercy has always had a special place in my development, and I thought this was an opportunity to really come full circle," said Johnston, 60, a 1961 Mercy graduate. "And I think that as a woman who's had a full professional life, the education of young women is very important to me."



"As a Mercy graduate, Mrs. Johnston carries with her the charisma, mission and spirit of the Sisters of Mercy. In her new role, she will be

charged with the responsibility to imbue others with these gifts," Mercy Sister Sheila Stevenson, president of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy, said in a statement.

Johnston will function as the school's chief executive officer. She will replace the school's current president, Mercy Sister Carol Wulforst, who announced last fall that she will retire after the 2003-04 school year. Also last fall, Principal Evelyn Kirst announced that she will resign after this school year. According to Kathleen Murray, president of the school's board of trustees, Johnston will play a critical role in determining Kirst's re-

placement as principal.

Johnston said another top priority for her will be to enhance the school's focus on math, science and applied technology. "These are very, very important fields for young women. Mercy does a very good job with that, and now we're looking to do an excellent job," she remarked.

Beginning her career in education in 1966, Johnston has spent most of her time in the Rochester City School District, where she was a teacher and administrator from 1970 to 2002. That span included 22 years at Wilson Magnet — the first five as administrator for science and technology, and the last 17 as principal.

"It was a joy. I don't know anybody who had a more satisfying career than I did at Wilson," she commented.

This past year Johnston served as interim principal at Irondequoit High School. In addition to her new role at Mercy, Johnston said she also plans to continue her adjunct duties at St. John Fisher College, where she has taught since 2002 in the graduate program for school principals.

Parish plans Lenten series

St. Mary Our Mother Parish, Horseheads, will be the site of a four-part Lenten discussion series sponsored by parishes in the Chemung-Schuyler Region.

The adult faith-formation sessions will take place March 3, 10, 24 and 31 at St. Mary Our Mother, 816 W. Broad St. (There will be no session March 17). Each gathering will run from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Topics and speakers are as follows:

March 3 and 10 — "How the Mass Has Developed Over 2,000 Years." Presenter: Father Walter Wainwright, pastor of Elmira's St. Anthony/St. Patrick cluster.

March 24 — "Theology of Mary — Her Special Place of Honor." Presenter: Father Wainwright.

March 31 — "Women in the Early Church." Presenter: Rosemary Bloise, pastoral associate of St. Mary Our Mother.

For more details, call 607/739-3817.

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JOIN US THIS MARCH

10 "WALKING WITH JESUS FROM BETHLEHEM TO JERUSALEM" This two-part presentation, co-sponsored by the Church Women United will be given by Nancy Ring, Ph.D., former chair of the Religious Studies Department and presently interim Dean of Arts and Sciences at LeMoyne College. Relying on the Scriptures, Dr. Ring will focus on the humanity of Jesus as he makes the journey from birth to resurrection, and the significance of that journey for us today. This particular presentation will center on Jesus' journey of the resurrection. Registration from 9:30 - coffee and snack available. First session - 10:30, Lunch at noon. Second session - 1:30. Departure - 3:00 p.m. Offering: \$15. Call to register.

13 INTRODUCTION TO THE ENNEAGRAM This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of the Enneagram, a journey of self-discovery. Knowledge of the Enneagram results in new self-understanding and brings us to greater personal healing and freedom under the direction of the Spirit. The workshop will be given by Father Jim Lauducci. 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Offering: \$25 includes lunch and all materials.

16 CELEBRATING THE CELTIC SOUL: Awakening to the God of All Creation. The Celtic people have given us a spirituality and way of life that is connected to earth and the blessings of creation. Using music, story, poetry we will explore the inner and outer landscapes of these early people and how their spirituality continues to shape us today. Presented by Sister Mary Ellen Curtin, CSJ who directs Earth Weaver Learning Center. She attended the Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality, is a student of Earth's wisdom, and enjoys doing retreats and workshops in ecospirituality and Celtic spirituality. Insh dinner at 6:00 followed by presentation at 7:30. Offering: \$25 per person, \$45 per couple.

18 A DAY OF MY OWN This special opportunity is offered on the third Thursday of each month and will provide a sacred space for you to "take time out" just to be with God - a time to reflect, pray and be refreshed in any way that will nourish your spirit. Come when you want to just "be"! Lunch will be provided. Offering: \$12.

19-21 WOMEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT This retreat will be given by Father Dominic McGee, OFM Conv., Pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Minoa, NY. The retreat will consist in conferences, Mass, Sacramental Reconciliation, time for personal prayer and reflection. Friday evening 6:00 (dinner) to Sunday morning. Offering: \$100.

23 A LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION Lent is a special time to come aside to pray, to strengthen our relationship with Jesus. We will reflect on the way Jesus' life fulfills the prophecies of Isaiah about the Suffering Servant of the Lord. He would not "break the bruised reed nor quench the wavering flame," but he would open the eyes of the blind, and be a light in the darkness for all nations. Although the Servant is like a lamb led to the slaughter, "he suffered meekly and opened not his mouth." Time will be provided for personal prayer. Lunch is included. Given by Sister Mary Lynch, SSJ. Retreat facilitator and Spiritual Director. 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (Includes lunch). Offering: \$25.

26-28 RETREAT WEEKEND FOR YOUNG ADULTS: "The Virtues in Color and Black & White" How does the medium of the film connect with the Divine? Presenter Eileen Pollack uses movies in her ministry to show us how to get in touch with where we are on the journey of faith and where we want to be. What do the virtues of compassion, faith, hope, love, peace and justice look like on the screen? Join us for this unique retreat experience. Time will be provided for presentations, discussion, personal and group prayer, Eucharist and sharing. Eileen Pollack holds a Master of Arts in Theology from St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry. She has taught Scripture, Morality, Theology & Film. Friday evening 6:00 (dinner) to Sunday morning. Offering: \$100.



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