

In

HARMONY

Sisters of Mercy, New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West Community

*Congratulations and God's blessings
to our sisters and associates
who are celebrating their jubilees
and to our sisters who have professed
perpetual vows this year.
We join Catherine McAuley in saying,
"May God preserve and bless you and grant
you all the graces and precious gifts ..."*

80

SR. LUCY MULLEN
PITTSBURGH

Sister Lucy Mullen, celebrating her 80th year as a Sister of Mercy this year, spends her time in prayer ministry at Mercy Hall, Pittsburgh.

Looking back on her 80 years, she said the time at St. Paul Orphanage, Crafton, were among her most memorable as many children, to whom she ministered, came back to visit her.

"I was able to help them and influence many of their decisions," she said. "During the difficult times of their lives, I was able to show caring and love, and listen to them."

She also taught at St. Xavier School, Latrobe, Pa.

Sister Lucy said Sister Paula O'Shea was a great influence on her decision to become a Sister of Mercy.



Sr. Lucy Mullen

Sister Lucy describes herself as "caring, kind and community-minded."

She entered the Sisters of Mercy Jan. 13, 1929, professed first vows Aug. 1, 1931, and final vows Aug. 25, 1934.

75

SR. SYLVIA McCLAIN
PITTSBURGH

Sister Sylvia McClain sums up the Mercy charism in one word: service.

And her service as a Sister of Mercy took her to the Philippines as a representative of the U.S. Peace Corps, administering College Board tests to high school students.

"I lived in Ozamis, a small town in Mindanao, where I learned to make do with little," recalls Sister Sylvia, the former Sister Mary Sylvia, who this year is celebrating her 75th jubilee as a Sister of Mercy in Pittsburgh.



Sr. Sylvia McClain

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In Harmony

A bimonthly publication of the
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Pennsylvania,
Pacific West Community

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SR. SYLVIA (CONTINUED)

“I ate sparingly – rice and liquids – and slept on a straw mattress,” she said, explaining that the Peace Corps allotted her \$75 each month and another \$75 to send back to the Sisters of Mercy community in Pittsburgh.

“I loved the family who took me in, Linda and Corporal Lao, and they loved me, too. We forged strong bonds. They now live in Canada, and I call them every week,” she said.

Currently, she is in prayer ministry at St. Mary Convent, Pittsburgh. Her longest teaching assignment was at St. Xavier Academy and convent, Latrobe, Pa.

Sister Sylvia said she is grateful to her sister, Sister Patrick McClain, who encouraged her to become a Sister of Mercy, and to Mother Irenaeus for changing her summer assignment from teaching to studies at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, where she completed work on her master of arts and master of education degrees. She previously earned a bachelor’s degree from Mount Mercy College (now Carlow University).

She describes herself as “intelligent, friendly and a quiet listener,” who enjoys exercising, crocheting, reading, walking, traveling and, of course, praying.

SR. MARY CORINNE CIMINERI ROCHESTER

Seventy-five years ago, Sister Mary Corinne Cimineri took as her motto, “All for Thee, sweet Jesus.” Throughout her religious life, she sought to bring those words alive in her ministries and to all whose lives she touched.

“My aim has always been to follow Christ joyfully in my consecrated

life of prayer and service. I feel blessed to be a part of the Mercy Community, and I am grateful to God for calling me to serve Him for these 75 years,” she said.

Sister Mary Corinne entered the Sisters of Mercy community in Rochester from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Clyde, N.Y. She has faithfully ministered in food services, first at the motherhouse on Blossom Road, then at Our Lady of Mercy High School and now, since 1957, at Notre Dame High School and convent in Elmira, N.Y.

She presently lives in the Notre Dame Community, Elmira.

SR. MARY JANE FRANCES HAUSER ROCHESTER

Teaching has been such an important part of Sister Mary Jane Frances Hauser’s religious life.

She taught at Aquinas Institute and Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, and Notre Dame High School in Elmira, N.Y.

“As a Sister of Mercy I enjoyed teaching science to both boys and girls. Those were wonderful years,” she said.

She added: “I also spent time working around High Acres, a vacation home previously owned by the Sisters of Mercy. I have so many happy memories of the friendly staff and people coming to visit there.”



Sr. Mary
Corinne
Cimineri



Sr. M. Jane
Frances
Hauser

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SR. MARY JANE FRANCES
(CONTINUED)

Also, she served in administrative positions at the motherhouse on Blossom Road for 17 years.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy from Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Rochester. Her motto is "My heart shall be Thine."

Celebrating her 75th jubilee this year, she lives at Mercy Center, Omega Community in Rochester, serving in prayer ministry.

70

SR. JANE HASBROUCK
ROCHESTER

Nearly 70 years ago, Sister Jane Hasbrouck took as her motto, "Thou in me and I in Thee."

And that is how it has been for her as she worked in her various ministries.

The former Sister Mary Cyprian entered the Sisters of Mercy from Rochester's St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street.

Much of her religious life was spent in education. She taught elementary school children at St. Charles Borromeo and St. Thomas the Apostle schools, both in Rochester.

She was a teacher and administrator at these high schools in the Diocese of Rochester: Holy Family, Auburn; Notre Dame, Elmira; and Our Lady of Mercy, Rochester.

In 1971, she worked in the office at Our Lady of Mercy High School and in the administrative offices of the Sisters of Mercy. She became archivist for the Sisters of Mercy community in 1985.



Sr. Jane Hasbrouck

Since 1996, she continues to volunteer as a literacy tutor and to lead small group discussions about current events for retired sisters.

Of her years as a religious, she said: "I have had many happy years as a Sister of Mercy in a variety of ministries. My vocation has led me to a full and satisfying life through God's abundant blessings."

She lives at St. Rita community, West Webster, N. Y.

SR. MARY JUDE
ROCKENBROCK
ROCHESTER

Sister Mary Jude Rockenbrock was a parishioner of Holy Cross Parish, Rochester, when she entered the Sisters of Mercy.

She taught in numerous elementary schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester, including: St. Andrew, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street), all in Rochester. She also taught at St. Ann, Hornell; St. Cecilia, Elmira; and St. Mary and St. Vincent, both in Corning, in the Southern Tier.

Sister Jude ministered as a pastoral associate at St. Ann Parish, Hornell.

At Mercy Center, Rochester, she continues her ministry of prayer and visiting those who are ill.

She said she has enjoyed 70 years as a Sister of Mercy and hopes to live out her motto to 'Serve the Lord with joy' until the end of her life.

Sister Jude lives in Trocaire Community at Mercy Center.



Sr. Mary Jude Rockenbrock

SR. MARY ANDRÉ STREB
ROCHESTER

A career in health care is how Sister Mary André Streb lives her motto, "Christ is my life."

She entered the Sisters of Mercy from St. Andrew Parish, Rochester. After completing her studies in nursing, she ministered to the sick at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse Infirmery. Also, she was a nurse at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, and St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, N. Y.

Sister André served in Steuben County as a public health nurse and ombudsman. She also volunteered her nursing skills in the Canisteo, N. Y., community and later at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse.

"I am happy about my life as a Sister of Mercy and a nurse and serving the needs of the sick throughout all these years," she said.

Today, she serves in prayer ministry at Mercy Center.

SR. MARY
CONCEPTA WALSH
ROCHESTER

Sister Mary Concepta Walsh sums up 70 years of religious life this way: "I live in grate-

fulness for these many years as a Sister of Mercy, striving to live as a faithful daughter of Mother Catherine McAuley and trusting in God's divine providence and care. What a wonderful life!"

She entered the Sisters of Mercy from St. Charles Borromeo Parish,



Sr. Mary André Streb



Sr. Mary Concepta Walsh

(Continued on Page 4)

SR. MARY CONCEPTA (CONTINUED)

Rochester, and took the motto, "To love Jesus and make Him loved."

She taught primary grade school children for 23 years at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Salome schools, both in Rochester. She also taught at St. Vincent School, Corning, N.Y.

In the mid-1960s, Sister Concepta responded to the needs of children living in Rochester's inner city and began her outreach programs at Joseph Avenue Center. She returned to St. Salome School and later developed a prayer program for children there.

In 1983, Sister Mary Concepta traveled to Indianola, Miss., as pastoral minister at St. Benedict the Moor Parish, where she served until 2002.

Today, Sister Concepta lives in Shalom Community at Mercy Center, Rochester, and continues her ministry of prayer with the community there.

60

SR. MARY ESTHER CARSTATER ROCHESTER

Sister Mary Esther Carstater is celebrating 60 years as a Sister of Mercy.

"Jubilee is a time of gratitude to God for all the experiences of my life," she said.

And she has had quite a few. She entered the Sisters of Mercy from Sacred Heart Parish, Jamestown, N.Y. She taught at St.



**Sr. Mary
Esther
Carstater**

Andrew and St. Charles Borromeo elementary schools in Rochester.

Most of her religious life has been spent as a librarian and teacher in Catherine McAuley College and Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, and Notre Dame High School, Elmira, N.Y.

Since 2004, Sister Esther has delighted in presenting travelogues of the numerous places she has visited and in coordinating a library of reading materials at Mercy Center, Rochester.

Sister currently lives in Bethany Community at Mercy Center.

Looking back on her years in religious life, she said: "Family, travel, education, 44 years as librarian of Mercy High School and the relationships I've made ... Perhaps, St. Augustine says it all for me, 'To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek Him is the greatest of all adventures; to find Him is the greatest human achievement.'"

SR. ANN CULLEN ROCHESTER

Sister Ann Cullen, formerly Sister Mary Lambert, entered the Sisters of Mercy from Holy Family Parish, Auburn, N.Y.

She ministered as a teacher for 33 years in a variety of schools including: Corpus Christi, Holy Cross, Northeastern Catholic Junior High, Our Lady of Mercy (Denise Road), St. Charles Borromeo, St. Louis, St. Monica and St. Rita, all in the Rochester area.

Other schools in which she taught in the Diocese of Rochester were: Holy Family, Auburn; St. Cecilia, Elmira; St. Mary, Corning; St. Michael, Newark; and St. Patrick, Owego. She was also a teacher and administrator at Annunciation School, Rochester.

She served in the Rochester City School District as a home-hospital teacher and in social services at Holy Angels Home.

Since 2000, she has volunteered at the Mercy Bridges office and as receptionist at Mercy Center in Rochester.

Sister Ann said: "Being a Sister of Mercy for 60 years has been a gift to me. I have been privileged to walk with many special people. Their support, love and that of a loving family and friends has brought me to this milestone on my journey."

SR. MARY ROSE CURRY BUFFALO

Sister Mary Rose Curry recalled her years ministering to addicted women at Ignatia House, Buffalo, where she and another sister lived as support people.

"I like all of my ministries but that ministry was the most gratifying as it seemed closest to our fourth vow (service to the poor, sick and uneducated, especially women and children)," she said.

In her 60 years as a Sister of Mercy, Sister Mary Rose taught at various elementary schools in the Diocese of Buffalo. She was principal at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School, Orchard Park, N.Y. Also, she served as a registered nurse and supervisor at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo.

Currently, she volunteers at the Helping Hearts Kids Club and serves the senior sisters in Buffalo.



Sr. Ann Cullen



**Sr. Mary
Rose Curry**

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SR. MARY ROSE **(CONTINUED)**

She said that she had a strong feeling that God wanted her to become a religious. Looking back on her years, she said joy has been a central part of her experience.

“The most satisfying part about being a Sister of Mercy is experiencing joy at being called to live solely for Christ and with women who are likewise called,” she said.

SR. PIERRE DEMBINSKI **ERIE**

Sister Pierre Dembinski recalls the stories told by her father and uncles who were taught by the Sisters of Mercy at St. Adrian Parish, Delancey, Pa.

“During our growing up years at home, we heard over and over again of the wonderful sisters who were assigned there and taught them in school, and of the rich heritage of Mercy that they brought to the parish and school,” said Sister Pierre, a native of St. Casimir Parish and school, Erie.

That, plus having uncles and cousins in the priesthood and religious life, helped her decide 60 years ago to enter the Sisters of Mercy community, then based in Titusville, Pa. “These wonderful people were and are strong examples of God’s divine influence on each of us,” she said.

An alumna of Mercyhurst College, she taught as a Sister of Mercy in Catholic elementary schools in Corry, DuBois, Erie, Greenville, Pittsburgh, Punxsutawney and Titusville. She supervised Mercyhurst’s Dietary Department and DuBois Hospital’s Dietary and Mental Health units. She was parish social minister at St.



Sr. Pierre Dembinski

Alphonsus Parish, Springdale, Pa., and pastoral minister at St. Peter Parish, New Kensington, Pa. Most recently, she was receptionist and switchboard operator at St. Mary’s Home East, Erie.

“I loved each and all ministries of which I was a part,” she said. “Surrendering to God’s will brings with it indescribable peace and satisfaction.”

She advised those considering a call to religious life to listen to God’s voice and the promptings of their heart.

SR. HELEN ANN GAUGHAN **BUFFALO**

As a teenager, Sister Helen Ann Gaughan was most impressed by the example of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart, who taught her in high school. But it was the difference in transportation that would lead her to the doorstep of the Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo.

“I could take two city buses to Abbott Road in South Buffalo and return home easily on the same buses,” she explained. “If I entered the Grey Nuns in 1949, I would have had to travel to Philadelphia or Yardley, Pa., by train, which would not have been as fast and easy.”

Today, Sister Helen Ann looks back on a religious life that has included teaching social studies, math and history in Buffalo-area Catholic schools. She also served as a principal at Holy Family School, Leroy.

“Much of my ability in education was greatly influenced by many of my own Mercy Sisters who trained me early in my career,” she said.



Sr. Helen Ann Gaughan

During her summers, she volunteered fulltime at Mercy hospitals in the Buffalo area. Later, she worked as a unit clerk in the Oncology Department at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo. Also, she worked in the Registration Department and was a patient-access person at Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Kenmore, N.Y.

“I learned about how special care, respect and compassion were needed for the patients and their families,” she said.

Today, she volunteers as a switchboard operator at Mercy Center and at Mercy Hospital, both in Buffalo.

“Every night when I go to bed, I thank God that I am here at Mercy Center, and I was able to persevere with the decision I made (to become a Mercy Sister),” she said.

SR. BERNADETTE **GEISER** **BUFFALO**

Some can easily point to a person who changed their life.

For Sister Bernadette Geiser, that person was Sister Mary Innocentia Fitzgerald, the former director of novices for the Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo.

She was a teacher at St. Mary’s High School, Niagara Falls, when Sister Bernadette was a senior. According to Sister Bernadette, students loved to hear Sister Mary Innocentia talk about convent life and her role as director.

“The holiness and goodness of this woman most influenced me, and I loved being with her. The motto in her ring was, ‘It is the Lord.’ So many times when things would happen, I was sure they were not just coincidences; it was the Lord gently nudging



Sr. Bernadette Geiser

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SR. BERNADETTE (CONTINUED)

me along to follow Him. I knew I must go and see if God was really calling me," Sister Bernadette said.

Also, she said her mother, who never heard of Catherine McAuley, left her a wonderful example to follow.

"I remember my mother sending me to sick friends with soup," she said. "We lived near the gorge in Niagara Falls, and often homeless men came to our door for food. No one was turned away. My concern for the poor and those in need began with my mother."

This year, Sister Bernadette is celebrating her 60th jubilee, and she recalls her 36 years of teaching in Catholic elementary schools in the Buffalo area. She also served as a secretary and receptionist. But, she said, her favorite ministry is working with the elderly at Westwood Village, an assisted-living facility.

"I feel I am loved and respected by so many people with whom I minister. That is very satisfying," she said.

SR. ANN HUGHES BUFFALO

Sister Ann Hughes has enjoyed a variety of ministries as a Sister of Mercy, from teaching and serving as a principal at elementary schools in the Diocese of Buffalo to pastoral associate and coordinator in diocesan parishes.



Sr. Ann Hughes

But in her 60 years of service, she looks to a country a-half-a-world away when she thinks about her favorite ministry.

"My years in the Philippines were the most rewarding. The loving

people were so poor and needy and most grateful," she said.

While assigned to the Philippines in the 1960s and 1970s, she taught at Holy Cross High School, Kolambagan; Language School, Ozamis City; and Mercy High School, Tubod.

She identified a quote from Catherine McAuley as one that has helped her through her life. It reads, "Put your whole confidence in God. He will never let you want."

Also, she said, the Eucharist gives her strength. "I love the Eucharist, and I am grateful to receive the Lord everyday. Jesus is so near and is always in my heart," she said.

As a young girl, Sister Ann wanted to be a religious like the ones who taught her at Holy Family School, Buffalo, and later in high school.

"I was attracted to the kindness and happiness of the sisters at Mt. Mercy Academy (Buffalo), and I eventually decided to enter," she said.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy on the same evening as her sister, Margaret Mary. Both are celebrating their diamond jubilees this year.

Looking back on her life as a religious, she said, "My wish as a child was fulfilled, and I was working for God all these years!"

She said the sisters all work and enjoy their lives together in community. "We love our community."

SR. MARGARET MARY HUGHES BUFFALO

Sister Margaret Mary Hughes was one of nine surviving children of the same family when she entered the Sisters of Mercy 60 years ago. Her sibling, Ann, decided to enter the Sisters of Mercy community, too. Today, both are celebrating their diamond jubilees.

A secretary before she entered the community in Buffalo, Sister Margaret Mary served many years at the former St. Jerome Hospital, Batavia, N.Y., including chief executive officer. Before that, she taught at Catholic elementary schools in the Buffalo area.



**Sr. Margaret
Mary Hughes**

In later years, she was archivist at Trocaire College and Mercy Center, both in Buffalo. She also performed pastoral work at Immaculate Conception Parish, Wellsville, N.Y., and at several nursing homes.

She said "doing God's will" has been the most satisfying aspect of being a Sister of Mercy.

She offered this advice to anyone considering a vocation to religious life: "If you have a vocation, you will be happiest in your chosen life. Christ said, 'You have not chosen me, I have chosen you.'"

SR. MARY ANNUNCIATA KELLEHER BUFFALO

For 60 years, Sister Mary Annunciata Kelleher has enjoyed a religious life with diverse ministries.

In the Buffalo area, she was president of Mercy Health System, president of the Mercy community, administrator and nursing service director at Mercy Hospital, emergency room supervisor and nursing service director at Kenmore Hospital, and a nurse at the former St. Jerome Hospital, Batavia, N.Y. She also taught in Buffalo Catholic elementary schools.

"Community leadership was a privilege, as was health care, which I

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SR. MARY ANNUNCIATA (CONTINUED)

did for most of my life,” said Sister Annunciata, a native of St. Teresa Parish, Buffalo.

She said she entered the Sisters of Mercy thanks to the positive influence of the sisters who taught her and walked with her in the hospitals.

At least two quotes have helped give her purpose and strength in her religious life. One is from Scripture, “The greatest of these is charity.” The other is from Catherine McAuley, “The poor need help today, not next week.”

She said her life as a Sister of Mercy has been satisfying, because of a “lifetime of service and wonderful opportunities for prayer.”

SR. MARGARET MARY MATTLE ROCHESTER

Music has been such a gift in the life of Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, formerly Sister Mary Magella.

She entered the Sisters of Mercy from St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street, Rochester, and instructed elementary school children in music at St. James, St. Louis and St. Salome schools. Sister Margaret Mary used her musical talents as coordinator of prayer and liturgy for the Sisters of Mercy in the Rochester area.

“Since I entered the Mercy community, I have been led by God through many challenges and



**Sr. Mary
Annunciata
Kelleher**

changes,” she said. “So today I can say, ‘Magnificat,’ because God has shown me great mercy, and now in the 21st century I can be a woman of Mercy as Catherine McAuley was in her day.”

Her motto reflects her experience in ministry, “Be it done unto me according to Your word.”

In 1967, Sister Margaret Mary became director of candidates for the Sisters of Mercy and served for four years. She was one of the founding members of Mercy Prayer Center, Rochester, where she offered spiritual direction and retreats.

She served the people of Santiago, Chile, for three years as a pastoral associate and spiritual director. When she returned to the United States she ministered with the rural poor of Steuben County in the Southern Tier of New York State.

Today, she serves as a spiritual director and retreat guide at Mercy Prayer Center.

She lives at Melrose community in Rochester.

SR. MARY MELCHIORA MICELI ROCHESTER

Sister Mary Melchiora Miceli loved teaching the “little ones.”

Her teaching ministry included assignments at Annunciation, Good Shepherd, Holy Cross, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Anthony, St. Charles Borromeo, St. James, St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street) and St. Salome, all in Rochester.

A native of St. Patrick Parish, Rochester, she also taught at these schools in the Diocese of Rochester: St. John Evangelist, Clyde; St. Patrick, Owego; St. Rita, Webster; and St. Vincent, Corning.

Sister Mary Melchiora ministered to children at Corpus Christi Child Care, KinderKare Day Care and The

Growing Place Day Care in the Rochester area. She was a special education teacher for the Rochester Public School system at schools 1 and 17.

For eight years she ministered in Arizona at St. Joseph Hospital and St. Jerome School.

“Like the Magi who followed the star, God has graced me along my long journey as a Sister of Mercy,” she said.

Today, she lives in Bethany Community and volunteers at Mercy Center, Rochester, living out her motto, “One heart.”

SR. FRANCINE NOLAN PITTSBURGH

Sister Francine Nolan, a native of St. Joseph Parish, Derry, Pa., is celebrating her 60th jubilee as a Sister of Mercy this year.

For the past 11 years, she has been assistant to the motherhouse coordinator at the Convent of Mercy, Pittsburgh.

Before that, she taught at St. Colman School, Turtle Creek, Pa., from 1952-58 and 1981-88. She taught at Saint Vincent School, Latrobe, Pa., from 1973-81.

Those who know Sister Francine commend her gentle humor and patience with each child, thus setting them positively on the road of life.

She said the kindness of the sisters at St. Xavier Academy, Latrobe, and at St. Paul Orphanage, Pittsburgh, influenced her decision to become a Sister of Mercy.



**Sr. Mary
Melchiora
Miceli**



**Sr. Francine
Nolan**

SR. MARY CARITAS QUINN **BUFFALO**

Sixty years after entering the Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo, Sister Mary Caritas Quinn has advice for anyone thinking about following her. "Go for it! It's a great and stupendous gift. Don't miss out on this invitation," she said.



Sr. Mary Caritas Quinn

Sister Caritas has lived a life in teaching and in hospital work that she considers most satisfying. She taught in Catholic grade schools and high schools in the Buffalo area and in the Philippines, where she ministered from 1964-80.

In the Philippines in 1978, she helped open the Mercy Community Clinic with 25 beds for poor people who could not afford medical care. It developed into a tertiary care-level facility today called Mercy Community Hospital.

"I am awed by the growth and beauty of this ministry," she said.

She taught at St. John the Baptist College in the Philippines from 2001-2002.

Later, back in Buffalo, she promoted mission work at Trocaire College, McAuley House, Convent of Mercy and Mt. Mercy Convent. Today, she works at the Mercy Mission Office at Mercy Center and volunteers at Mercy Hospital.

"I enjoy volunteering each Monday morning – mostly guiding people to their destinations, praying with patients I visit and doing whatever I can to be a Mercy presence," she said.

As for her life as a Sister of Mercy, she said, "I love community and our routine of prayer that unites us all in our ministries to the poor, sick and uneducated."

SR. JEANNE REICHART **ROCHESTER**

"It's the best dream I ever had!" said Sister Jeanne Reichart of her 60 years as a Sister of Mercy, much of it in education in the United States and abroad.

"I express my gratitude to my beloved family and to the teachers I had in school whose guidance led me to the acceptance of this incredible gift of God," she said.

The former Sister Mary Dominic entered the Mercy community from St. Margaret Mary Parish, Rochester.

In the Rochester Diocese, she taught at these Catholic schools: All Saints Academy, Holy Cross School, Our Lady of Mercy High School, St. James, St. John the Evangelist (Humboldt Street), St. Louis and St. Rita. She also taught at Holy Family School, Auburn, N. Y.



Sr. Jeanne Reichart

She was an administrator at Corning (N. Y.) Catholic School North, Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Patrick schools, both in Elmira, N. Y.

In 1974, she was an exchange teacher at St. Joseph School, Hertfordbury, England. Sister Jeanne spent three years in the Catholic Education Office in Agana, Guam, as curriculum coordinator and assistant superintendent of schools. She also taught at St. Anthony School there.

Currently, she is archivist for the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester and lives in St. Cecilia Community, Rochester.

SR. CLARE SMITH **PITTSBURGH**

Sister Clare Smith never saw a Sister of Mercy until she attended Mt. Mercy College (now Carlow University) in Pittsburgh to study French. But, she said, because of that experience the Lord led her to enter the Sisters of Mercy community in Pittsburgh.



Sr. Clare Smith

"I had a desire to live a life as close to God as I could," she said, 60 years after entering the convent.

"There is a joy and freedom in being 'real' in the midst of serving others."

For most of her religious life, Sister Clare taught French, Spanish and Latin in elementary schools and high schools in the Pittsburgh area and in Puerto Rico.

Today, she is director of the Mader Learning Center at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology, St. Meinrad, Ind. Also, she teaches English as a Second Language, Latin, French and Spanish there.

"I have enjoyed all of my ministries as each was another degree of growth and development for me," said Sister Clare, a native of St. Philip Parish, Crafton.

One of the prayers that has given her strength over the years has been Catherine McAuley's "Suscipe" which, she said, encapsulates all of Mercy life.

As to anyone considering becoming a Sister of Mercy, she has this advice: "Give it your full commitment, and it will be very fulfilling."

**SR. ANN THERESE
SQUEGLIA
PITTSBURGH**

Sister Ann Therese Squeglia grew up in a small country parish – St. Lawrence (now Risen Lord) in Hillsdale, Pa. One day, a Franciscan Sister came to teach catechism to young parishioners. Sister Ann Therese was deeply impressed.

“This childhood feeling was further enhanced by my loving parents. When I entered Mt. Mercy College (now Carlow University), Pittsburgh, I felt right at home, and I knew God was calling me to love and serve Him there,” she said.

She continued, “The influence of my parents, who were very religious, and the Sisters of Mercy who taught me in college influenced me. I loved joining them in prayer.”

Six decades later, she looks at ministries that include teaching in elementary and high schools in the Pittsburgh area, working at the Convent of Mercy’s kitchen and dining room, and 47 years at the former Mercy Hospital, now UPMC Mercy. At the hospital, she was director of clinical dietetics and of the Food and Nutrition Department.

She said her favorite ministry was working at the hospital’s Nutrition Center, which she started.

“There I met, worked with and helped thousands of people regain a health status and to feel comfortable and cope with the situation in which they found themselves, regardless of their disease or nutrition-counseling intervention,” she said.

Today, she volunteers where she is needed.



**Sr. Ann
Therese
Squeglia**

**SR. MARY NORINE TRUAX
BUFFALO**

Sister Mary Norine Truax went to public schools as a child and had little contact with the Sisters of Mercy. So how did she end up as one of them?

“It was the Holy Spirit and discernment with my pastor,” she said. She explained that Father George Freeman, her pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Lakewood, N. Y., was her spiritual director and loved the Sisters of Mercy.

Sister Mary Norine said she enjoyed her years as an elementary school teacher in Buffalo Catholic schools and her work with the diocesan Office for Special Religious Education.

“I set up programs in different parishes in order to enable the physically and mentally disabled to receive the sacraments. We also worked with parents, which was very rewarding,” she said.

She also was director and teacher at the Mount Mercy Reading Center and coordinator of testing and coordinator for students with special needs at Trocaire College, Buffalo. Today, she volunteers at Kenmore Mercy Hospital.

She identified two quotes from Catherine McAuley as her favorites. They are: “Be sure to have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone,” and “God knows that I would rather be cold and hungry, than the poor . . . should be deprived of any consolation in our power to afford them.”

Reflected Sister Mary Norine, “Catherine’s gift of hospitality was al-



**Sr. Mary
Norine Truax**

ways so visible for the poor, and I believe the sisters are trying to live her wish for the poor, especially in today’s world.”

**SR. MARY ALBERTA
VAN REMMEN
BUFFALO**

Sister Mary Alberta Van Remmen attributes her vocation to at least two people: the prayers of her late aunt, Mercy Sister Mary Frances Teresa Van Remmen, who died in 1981, and a conversation she had with a young woman who could not accept the call to be a religious.

“A special grace was given to me in that moment when I said to myself that I would accept it. That was in January 1949. March 25th is the anniversary date of my entrance, and here I am 60 years later celebrating God’s goodness to me,” she said.

She began her ministry teaching in Catholic elementary schools in Batavia, Olean and South Buffalo, all in New York. Much of her career, however, was spent in the Buffalo-area Mercy Health Care System as a supervisor in the Radiology Department. Today, she provides hospitality at Mercy Center, Buffalo.

“I enjoyed my health care ministry because my patients were grateful for any attention and care,” she said.

Throughout her life, she focused on this saying of Jesus Christ, “I am with you always until the end of time.”

Of her life in Mercy, she said, “Being a Sister of Mercy has and will always be a challenge to me. I am grateful to all those who have gone before me, who have given example of their lives.” She offered this advice to anyone who is considering religious life, “Come and see.”



**Sr. Mary
Alberta
Van Remmen**

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**SR. MARY
JACQUELINE ABAR
BUFFALO**

Sister Jacqueline Abar spent most of her ministry as a Sister of Mercy teaching in Catholic elementary schools in Batavia, Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Orchard Park and Wellsville, all in the Diocese of Buffalo.



**Sr. Mary
Jacqueline
Abar**

But, she said, she really enjoys her current ministry: helping where she is needed at the South Buffalo Community Table, a soup kitchen. There, she works with many different groups of volunteers.

“They are so kind to me, and I now have some 30 additional friends,” she said.

She added, “I am so blessed. The work is tiring, but so rewarding. I feel that I’m following Mother McAuley’s footsteps in helping the poor.”

From an early age, Sister Jacqueline was impressed by the Sisters of Mercy who taught her at St. Mary’s grade and high schools. She also enjoyed helping the sisters with church work.

Looking back at her 50 years of ministry, she said: “As a Sister of Mercy, I have so many opportunities of serving our Lord in my work at the soup kitchen, attending daily Mass, having time for prayer, helping the other sisters, being helped and cared for by the sisters, and enjoying their kindnesses and concerns.”

She considered it a privilege to be a Sister of Mercy and invites anyone interested in the religious life to “come and see.”

**SR. MARY ANN AYERS
BUFFALO**

Sister Mary Ann Ayers said the Sisters of Mercy, who taught her in grammar school through high school, served as an example for her when she decided to become a woman religious.

“I was influenced by their presence to the people they served and each other,” she said.

According to Sister Mary Ann, she has been happy in all of her ministries, which have included teaching in Buffalo Catholic schools for many years. Also, she was a pastoral care chaplain at Emmaus Convent, Buffalo, and at St. Mary’s Hospital, Rochester.



**Sr. Mary Ann
Ayers**

Since 1984, she has ministered at Spirit House, a healing community for women religious who are experiencing major life stresses. She has been executive director there since 1995.

“Spirit House has taught me that we are all wounded healers, and the power is in us for change and conversion. I am so privileged to walk the journey with the women and to see them heal and choose life,” she said.

Sister Mary Ann said to be a Sister of Mercy means being “able to give service to all with compassion, carrying out and living Catherine McAuley’s charism as a true Sister of Mercy.”

Her favorite quote from Catherine is: “The tender mercy of God has given us one another.”

She invited other women to consider the religious life. “I would tell and encourage any woman to pray, discern and follow her heart.”

**SR. ANN BRAUN
PITTSBURGH**

As a non-Catholic in the eighth grade at St. Paul Cathedral Grade School, Pittsburgh, Sister Ann Braun admired the Sisters of Mercy for their inner peace and joy.

“Their relationship with God in words and actions was something I wanted in my life. I began instructions to become a Catholic and then to plan my life as a Sister of Mercy,” said Sister Ann, who is celebrating her golden jubilee this year.



Sr. Ann Braun

The former Sister Justina taught for many years at St. Colman School, Turtle Creek, Pa. Today, she provides dog therapy for the sisters at the Convent of Mercy, Pittsburgh.

“With Molly, my dog, I have the privilege of bringing a smile and a sense of well-being and love to our senior sisters who have shown me what it is to be Mercy,” she said.

“Caring, sincere and trustworthy” are the words she uses to describe herself.

She said the Sisters of Mercy are known for the charism of hospitality, which underlies the fourth vow of service, particularly to the poor, women and children.

“Hospitality places the recipient of service in a comfortable, appreciated and respected position,” she said.

**SR. MARGARET DEEGAN
ROCHESTER**

Sister Margaret M. Deegan, formerly Sister Clare Marie, entered the Sisters of Mercy from St. Ann Parish, Hornell, N. Y.

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SR. MARGARET (CONTINUED)

“When I chose ‘Christ is my life’ for my motto, I wanted to express my desire to live devoted to God.

Reflecting back 50 years on my life as a Sister of Mercy, I see that it really expresses how God takes care of me,” she said.

She was a teacher at Our Lady Queen of Peace School, taught music at St. Helen, St. Louis and St. Rita schools and liturgy at St. Bernard’s Seminary, all in Rochester.

Sister Margaret was in pastoral work at St. Jerome Parish, East Rochester, N. Y., and at St. Brendan/St. Jude Center, Buffalo. While she was at St. Jerome’s, she also directed the Pre-Postulant Program.

She spent several years in Hornell, N. Y., at St. James Mercy Hospital caring for family members, volunteering her services and providing clerical assistance in the hospital offices. In 1995, she managed the administrative offices for the Sisters of Mercy in Rochester. She also was registrar for St. Bernard Institute, Rochester.

Since 2002, she has been liturgy coordinator for the sisters at Mercy Center and lives in the Highland Avenue community at Mercy Prayer Center, Rochester.

SR. CAROL ELLIS BUFFALO

Sister Carol Ellis has spent the past 50 years as a Sister of Mercy and continues to look to the future with hope. She said in spite of diminishing numbers and infirmities of aging, the Sisters of Mercy continue to find all kinds of ways to help society.



**Sr. Margaret
Deegan**

“I am especially proud of the ways we address systemic change by never letting a justice issue go by without making the effort to inform government representatives of the impact certain legislation has for poor persons,” she said.

Mostly, Sister Carol’s ministry has been in health care. She was a registered nurse at Kenmore and Mercy hospitals in the Buffalo area. Later, she was assistant director for pastoral care at Calvary Hospital, Bronx, N. Y., and staff chaplain and director of pastoral care at Buffalo’s Mercy Hospital. Also, she taught in Catholic elementary schools in the Buffalo area and has been a secretary. Today, she is a nurse companion and driver at Mercy Center Health Care Unit in Buffalo.

“The direct care of the sick will always hold a special place in my heart,” she said. “I realize that things have changed dramatically in health care over the years, and that it’s unlikely to ever be the hands-on ministry for the registered nurse that it once was. But I still believe that there is a blessing for both the giver and the receiver when competent hands administer concerned care in an institutional setting – or any setting.”

The native of St. Bartholomew Parish, Buffalo, said she visited the Sisters of St. Joseph for about a year, but it was the Sisters of Mercy who “seemed so warm and welcoming that the choice was an easy one.”

SR. JANE FADGEN PITTSBURGH

The example of her parents and the sisters who taught her in grade school inspired Sister Jane Fadgen to become a Sister of Mercy.

“Religious life always seemed right for me. It allows me privileged access to people’s lives; the chance to work with them in times of great crises, joy and happiness,” said Sister Jane who is celebrating her 50th jubilee this year.

Currently, she performs social ministry at St. Raphael Parish, Pittsburgh, where she has been since 1997. Before that, she was principal at Our Lady of Fatima School, Hopewell Township, Pa., Lawrenceville Catholic Middle School, Pittsburgh, and a teacher at St. Mary’s 46th Street.

She considers herself to be joyful, compassionate and giving. Her hobbies include music, cooking and baking.

Sister Jane, who originally entered the Sisters of Mercy community in Pittsburgh as Sister Mary Edith, said we come to know God’s presence in people, nature and the events of our lives.

“I feel very blessed to have been called by God to work with children, the poor and the elderly and be involved in their lives in this way. It has been an awesome journey,” she said.

SR. PATRICIA GILBERT BUFFALO

Looking back on 50 years of ministry, Sister Patricia Gilbert said she especially enjoyed teaching students who wanted to obtain their high school equivalency diploma at the Warde Center, Buffalo, and parish ministry.

“Meeting the needs of people seeking to improve their lives through education, visiting the sick in hospitals, homes and nursing homes and



**Sr. Jane
Fadgen**



Sr. Carol Ellis

(Continued on Page 12)

**SR. PATRICIA
(CONTINUED)**

those searching for their path in life was a great challenge and a joy," she said. "It was, for me, the one-on-one interaction with people who shared their personal journeys with me in all kinds of settings where I felt that I was walking in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley, living our charism."



**Sr. Patricia
Gilbert**

An elementary school teacher and principal for many years, Sister Patricia also served on the administrative council for Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo and was co-director for associates. Today, she is a student activities assistant at Trocaire College, Buffalo.

Her first hints that, perhaps, she would become a religious came during her schooling by the Sisters of Mercy.

"For me, it was the sisters themselves who modeled what I felt I was seeking. It seemed to be an attraction to their goodness," she said.

Growing up, she assumed that she would have a career as a secretary and ultimately become a wife and mother. But it was helping the sisters after school, singing in the choir and the dedication and generosity of Sister Mary Christina that finally convinced her to enter the convent.

"I did pray often that God would show me the way to serve God best, and all kinds of surprises awaited me in Mercy. I have experienced an abundance of God's mercy and love and hopefully, in return, I was willing to offer myself with the gifts and talents to God's people in whatever way I was needed," she said.

**SR. MARY PLACIDUS
McDONALD
PITTSBURGH**

The Sisters of St. Joseph, who taught her at St. Titus Grade School, Aliquippa, Pa., made a lasting impression with their spirit of joy. Today, Sister Mary Placidus McDonald is celebrating her golden jubilee as a Sister of Mercy.

Looking back at why she entered the Sisters of Mercy community in Pittsburgh, she said the "fourth vow" – service to the poor, sick and uneducated – was quite meaningful to her.

"This vow of service enables me to live my response to God's mercy to me and to share Mercy with all whom I meet and, most especially, with those in need," she said.

For the past 45 years, Sister Mary Placidus has been a medical technologist at UPMC Mercy, formerly Mercy Hospital. She said the position enables her to use her education and technical skills to help those who are ill.



**Sr. Mary
Placidus
McDonald**

"The work has been most satisfying. However, the many requests for prayers for people and their intentions has made my ministry most rewarding," she said.

Sister Mary Placidus describes herself as "quiet, unassuming and helpful."

Her hobbies include reading, walking and visiting museums and flower shows.

**SR. GERALDINE MURRAY
BUFFALO**

In the 1980s, Sister Geraldine could be found in rural West Virginia where she was a speech therapist in schools, taught adults to read, visited

the elderly, drove ambulances and served as an emergency medical technician. "I learned so much from the people there; it was a broadening experience," she said.

Before her time in Appalachia, she taught primary grades in Catholic schools in the Buffalo area. Also, she was a speech pathologist at Mercy Hospital, Buffalo, and a homemaker for senior citizens.

Today, she enjoys her ministry as a chaplain in a nursing home and visiting the elderly and shut-ins in their homes.



**Sr. Geraldine
Murray**

"I find it very enriching to hear their life stories and to pray with them, as well as helping them, in some way, to prepare to die," she said.

She listed as her favorite quote from Scripture one from St. Paul, which reads, "I can do all things in Christ, who strengthens me."

"This passage empowers me to bring Christ to each person. Endurance is a value to me; thus I have been a runner for 31 years and have run a marathon – only with God's help," she said.

Sister Geraldine said she has found living in community with others who share a common goal an enriching experience. "Community life, prayer and ministry have made my life as a Sister of Mercy very satisfying."

**SR. MARY MAGDALINO
NAMUAG
PHILIPPINES**

In the third grade, Sister Mary Magdalino Namuag wrote a paragraph for her teacher revealing her desire to be a nurse and a sister. Years later in high school, she was in-

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SR. MARY MAGDALINO
(CONTINUED)

trigued by the story of Florence Nightingale and the Sisters of Mercy who cared for soldiers wounded in the Crimean War in the 1850s.

"It was then that my wanting to be a Sister of Mercy was somewhat crystallized," she said.

Coming to Buffalo in the 1950s to study at the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, she was inspired and excited by the life and prayer of the sisters who taught her.

"I could hardly wait to finish my nursing career and enter the Sisters of Mercy. My vocation developed more and more in observing the sisters," she said, 50 years later.

She entered the convent after graduating from nursing school. She worked in the pediatric ward of the former St. Jerome Hospital, Batavia, N.Y.

Returning to the Philippines, she taught high school. Later, she was Family Life and Natural Family Planning (NFP) coordinator for the Prelature of Iligan and Marawi, coordinator of the Family Life Apostolate for the Pagadian Diocese, NFP director at Makati Medical Center. Today, she is NFP coordinator for the Diocese of Novaliches, Manila.

Her other ministries included part-time chaplain at Makati Medical Center and director of novices.

"The whole life as a Sister of Mercy is satisfying, being able to live in chastity, poverty and obedience and serve the uneducated as well as the sick," she said.



**Sr. Mary Magdalino
Namuag**

SR. BARBARA ANNE QUINN
PITTSBURGH

Sister Barbara Anne Quinn always wanted to work in church ministry after seeing the witness of the Sisters of Mercy who ministered at St. Paul Cathedral, Pittsburgh.

So, she followed their example and entered the Mercy community in Pittsburgh. This year marks the 50th year as a Sister of Mercy for the former Sister Mary Nora.

"Sisters of Mercy profess poverty, chastity, obedience and a fourth vow: to serve the poor, sick and uneducated," she said. "As I look back over the last 50 years, I consider it a unique privilege to have served as a Catholic educator in this diocese.

Hopefully, I have passed the faith on to those I have instructed as well as the sisters at the cathedral passed it on to me," she said.

Sister Barbara Anne taught at St. Regis School in Oakland for 10 years. In 1980, she was assigned to St. Agatha/Holy Child School, Bridgeville, Pa. She was named principal there in 1983 and continues in that position today.

"Living with a community of women who have made the same promise to God, working and praying together to support each other in our individual ministry, is the most rewarding aspect of religious life for me," she said.

SR. KAY SCHWENZER
ROCHESTER

Education, pastoral ministry and missionary work have helped define religious life for Sister Kay

Schwenzer, a native of Holy Trinity Parish, Webster, N.Y.

"How grateful I am for my religious vocation and how much I love being a Sister of Mercy!" she said. "I believe I have grown and lived out mercy, love and compassion."

She said her life in Mercy has been influenced through a variety of living communities and ministry experiences, and the wonderful opportunity of being in touch with and challenged by the views, gifts, needs, priorities and faith of people from other nations and cultures through my ministry in Chile and among the Latinos in Rochester and Yates, Ontario and Wayne counties."

Sister Kay has studied in a number of colleges and universities including: Nazareth and St. Bernard's Institute, Rochester; Ss. Peter and Paul, Boston; San Antonio, Texas; Xavier University, Cincinnati; and at Instituto de Idiomas, Cochabamba, Bolivia.

She taught at Notre Dame High School, Elmira N.Y., and then ministered for nine years as a missionary in Santiago, Chile, where she was novice director for five years.

She served as pastoral associate at St. Michael Parish, Rochester, assisting the Spanish-speaking community in that area and at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish.

In 2006, she became parish administrator at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Rochester.

Today, she is pastoral minister to the Hispanic communities of Yates, Ontario and Wayne counties in New York State with offices in Newark and Geneva, N.Y.

Sister Kay lives at St. Michael community, Lyons, N.Y.



**Sr. Kay
Schwenzer**



**Sr. Barbara
Anne Quinn**

SR. KATHLEEN SWEENEY BUFFALO

Sister Kathleen Sweeney did not start out as a Sister of Mercy 50 years ago, but as a Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Divine Child.

As a member of that community, she set up a medical/dental clinic in San Antonio, Texas, from 1962-63. After that, she taught religious education in parishes in the Diocese of Buffalo and Brooklyn, N.Y.

In the mid-1970s, she studied early childhood education at Trocaire College, Buffalo, and taught third grade at Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Buffalo.

In 1977, she decided to transfer to the Sisters of Mercy in Buffalo.

"I was led to enter the Sisters of Mercy because of their many charisms, some of which are warmth, love, acceptance and hospitality," she said. "What I find most satisfying about being a Sister of Mercy is being with gifted women who are supportive of and committed to serving women, children and the poor."

As a Sister of Mercy, she spent many years teaching in schools in the Diocese of Buffalo.

"My favorite ministry has been that of teaching little children. They are so accepting of what you have to say, teach or show them. They are precious and innocent; they are a gift," she said.

For the past 18 years, Sister Kathleen has taught early childhood intervention for grades pre-K to first at Our Lady of Victory School, Lackawanna, N.Y.



Sr. Kathleen
Sweeney

SR. LUCY WALAWENDER ROCHESTER

Sister Lucy Walawender entered the Sisters of Mercy from St. Isaac Jogues Parish, Flemming, N.Y., and embarked on a career that has included teaching, pastoral ministry and prayer.

"I am grateful to God for the graces of the past 50 years. I am grateful, also, to Sister Rosaria Hughes who introduced me to the Sisters of Mercy and continued to be an inspiration in living out the charism of Catherine McAuley along with many others in this congregation," she said.

Sister Lucy taught at St. James School, Rochester. She also worked in the offices of Notre Dame High School, Elmira, N.Y., Our Lady of Mercy High School and the Sisters of Mercy administrative office, both in Rochester.

She initiated the St. Mary House of Prayer in Corning, N.Y., where she ministered in the apostolate of prayer for eight years.

In 1981, Sister Lucy began pastoral work in several parishes of the Rochester Diocese including: Holy Name and St. Salome, Rochester; St. Francis, Phelps; and St. Felix, Clifton Springs. She coordinated social outreach ministries in Elmira at St. Patrick Parish and later at St. Anthony/St. Patrick Cluster parishes.

Today, she ministers to the sick and infirm through prayer and as a volunteer driver for Lifespan organization. She lives in McAuley Community at Mercy Center, Rochester.



Sr. Lucy
Walawender

SR. MARY ANINE WAPLES BUFFALO

Sister Mary Anine Waples said her parents and two aunts, who were women religious, served as wonderful examples for her as she was growing up and contemplating entering the Sisters of Mercy. Also, her experience teaching at St. Teresa School, Buffalo, influenced her decision.

Teaching and school administration in the Diocese of Buffalo made up most of her ministry as a Sister of Mercy. She served as principal at St. Anthony School, Batavia, N.Y.

"Teaching and watching children grow and learn, and the excitement they show when they learned something, has been the favorite part of my ministries," she said.

Today, she ministers at St. Brigid Outreach, Buffalo.

Looking back on 50 years as a Sister of Mercy, she said, "Living my life of service and being able to help people less fortunate than I is what I have found most satisfying."



Sr. Mary Anine
Waples

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SR. BARB STINARD ROCHESTER

Sister Barb Stinard entered the Mercy community from Immaculate Conception Parish, Ithaca, N.Y., and took as her motto, "Christ Jesus, of You my heart speaks."

"God has gifted me with a life of community and service as a Sister of Mercy. Parish ministry, service at

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SR. BARB (CONTINUED)

Catherine McAuley's House in Dublin, Ireland, and companioning Mercy Association have been among the joys of these 25 years," she said.

She was pastoral associate at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta, N.Y., and at St. John the Evangelist Church, Spencerport, N.Y.

Later, she was pastoral administrator at St. Christopher Church, North Chili, N.Y., and at Holy Cross Church, Dryden, N.Y.

In 2004, she traveled to Ireland and ministered as heritage coordinator and team member at Mercy International Centre, Dublin. Later, she was coordinator of donor relations and development at the Sisters of Mercy administrative offices in Rochester.

Currently, she is co-coordinator of Mercy Association at Mercy Center, Rochester.

VIRGINIA CONAHAN
Mercy Associate
PITTSBURGH

Ask Virginia Conahan what prompted her to become a Mercy Associate and you'll get a simple, but clear answer.

"I became a Mercy Associate because of my love for the Mercy Sisters who taught me, and also working with them at St. Colman Parish (Turtle Creek, Pa.)," she said.

She especially recalls her experience working with Sisters Linda McCutcheon and the late Anthony Albright at St. Colman's.

Today, she celebrates 25 years of Mercy Association.

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Sr. Barb Stinard

Philippine Sisters profess vows

Two Sisters of Mercy professed perpetual vows in the Philippines on June 13.

Sisters Josefina de Guzman and Teresita Fernandez Magallon made their professions at Corpus Christi Church, Iligan, Mindanao, Philippines. Sister Nancy Hoff, NyPPaW president, presided over the ceremony. Sister Kathleen Ann Kolb, NyPPaW's coordinator of health and wellness, also attended the ceremony.

Here is a look at the two sisters:

SR. JOSEFINA DE GUZMAN

Several years ago, Sister Josefina had been working as a lay missionary doctor north of Manila at a mission hospital managed by the Holy Spirit Sisters, before she returned to Ozamis City to take care of her ailing father. During that time, she became a member of the Tertiary Order of the Discalced Carmelites.

"As a tertiary, I became more and more familiar with an amazing blend of contemplation and action. It is possible! In Ozamis City, I had the chance to do just that: taking care of my father and others who came into my clinic, and reaching out to street children."

In 2000, she moved to Iligan City to work at Mercy Community Hospital where she had a life-changing experience: she met the Sisters of Mercy. She participated in a Sisters of Mercy "search-in"



Pictured, from left, are Sister Josefina de Guzman and Sister Teresita Fernandez Magallon, who professed perpetual vows on June 13.

program after she volunteered to serve the sick and poor in the outlying parts of the province of Lanao del Norte, Mindanao.

"I heard the Lord's voice loud and clear! The blend (of contemplation and action) is completed by the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. And not only that, there is a fourth vow, to serve the poor, the sick and the uneducated! Indeed, God's grace is amazing," she said.

Today, she is laboratory supervisor at Mercy Community Hospital and ministers to the sick at the Mercy Mobile Clinic, both in Iligan City.

Sister Josefina wants to model her life after Catherine McAuley.

"Her pathway is that of a living witness of Christ's presence in the world. I do it by being loving, emphasizing hospitality and pursuing the integrity of word and deed befitting a religious sister," she said.

(See PHILIPPINES on Page 16)

VIRGINIA (CONTINUED)

A widow with three grown children, she was a para-professional at Good Shepherd School, Braddock, Pa.

She earned a degree in religious education from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, and taught religious education for 30 years at St. Colman



Virginia Conahan

School in kindergarten through the eighth grade. Also, she has been assistant manager of the program for 16 years.

She is a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for which she served as vice-regent. She also serves in prayer shawl ministry.

What does Virginia enjoy about Mercy Association?

"Praying with the sisters at the Convent of Mercy and also meeting a lot of good Mercy Associates who became my best friends in Mercy," she said.

EILEEN O'BRIEN Mercy Associate ROCHESTER

Eileen O'Brien enjoyed her ministry at St. Mary Parish in downtown Rochester, where she helped with liturgy, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and was a Eucharistic minister. There she worked with Mercy Sister Kathleen Milliken, whom she credited with influencing her to become a Mercy Associate 25 years ago.



Eileen O'Brien

It was a decision that has brought her joy.

"I am able to put the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy to use," she said.

She said her favorite quote from Catherine McAuley is, "Let nothing delight me but the hope of coming to the possession of thee, my God, and my all in the everlasting kingdom."

Eileen, who graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester, is retired as an information systems specialist from the Center for Environmental Information, Rochester.

A widow, she has two children and six grandchildren. She said she enjoys watching the new associates grow and learn about new ideas to advance Mercy.

KATHY PEASE Mercy Associate ROCHESTER

Kathy Pease has long been associated with the Sisters of Mercy. She is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School, Rochester. In fact, she entered the pre-postulant program before deciding to head into another direction. She married 25 years ago and became a Mercy Associate.



Kathy Pease

"I wanted to be connected with the sisters in this way," she said.

She finds being a Mercy Associate spiritually fulfilling.

"When you live in a world with so much violence and turmoil, it is very supportive to be affiliated with a group of people who stand up for the poor and have Christian values."

Kathy teaches vocal music in the Royalton Heartland Elementary School District.

Philippines

(Continued from Page 15)

SR. TERESITA FERNANDEZ MAGALLON

Sister Teresita's decision to become a Sister of Mercy was influenced by the sisters' pastoral ministry in the Indigenous Peoples Apostolate in Ipil Prelature, Zamboanga Sibugay Province, Mindanao, where today she is coordinator.

"I consider it a privilege to be with them on how we struggle to fight for life in striving for a brighter tomorrow. Most of our people living in the mountains need an education and, as our fourth vow says, we care for the sick, poor and uneducated," she said.

She joined the Sisters of Mercy several years ago, but realized that she was too young for that type of life and went back home. Years later, however, she decided to return to the convent to partake in God's mission.

"I was more responsible and mature in looking at life's wider and deeper meaning and willing to share the many graces and surprises of our Lord. I felt an inner joy," she said.

Sister Teresita explained that she was attracted to the simple lifestyle of the Sisters of Mercy.

"I want to be a Sister of Mercy responding to the needs of our times and creation, to become a light and hope for those who hunger for peace and to be a God-centered person," she said.

