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A call to spread love and mercy

Seven Sisters of Mercy celebrate anniversaries

CHARLOTTE — Seven Sisters of Mercy recently celebrated a collective 385 years of service as women religious.

The sisters celebrated their jubilees, or anniversaries, at a Mass at St. Gabriel Church in Charlotte May 30. Father James Solari, a retired priest of the diocese, celebrated the Mass.

Celebrating 60 years as “diamond jubilarians” were Mercy Sisters Mary Michel Boulus, Mary Gerard Donovan, Patricia Durbin, Mary Julia Godwin, Jeanne-Margaret McNally and Mary Agnes Solari.

Celebrating 25 years as a “silver jubilarian” was Mercy Sister Teresa Susana Dandison. Mercy Sister Mary Hugh Mauldin introduced the Jubilarians to the guests at the celebration.

“You, of course, know our sisters from how they’ve served among you — foster mothers, teachers, college administrators, nurses, counselors, school principals,” she said.

“We sisters know them other ways too — as women who strive to live together in love that the world may be encouraged in their call to love,” said Sister Mauldin.

Sister Boulus, a North Carolina native, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. Although her ministry has been mostly in administration, she said she would most like to be remembered as a math teacher.

She currently is director for both the food services for Sacred Heart Convent and the administrative offices of the Sisters of Mercy South Central Community.

Sister Donovan, a native of Long Island, N.Y., entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1950. Although much of her ministry was as an educator, she is gifted in finance as well. For 14 years, she was treasurer of the congregation in Guam, and from 1979 to 1996 she served as treasurer of the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina.

Sister Durbin, a native of Nebraska, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1950. In addition to her ministry in education, Sister Durbin has worked in the office of Holy Angels in Belmont and in the office of the president of the community.

For the past decade, she has served as director of the Media Resource Center for the Diocese of Charlotte.

A native North Carolinian, Sister Godwin entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. She has served as a teacher and has ministered for years as a direct caregiver. Currently, she helps care for ill sisters at Marian Center on the Sisters of Mercy campus in Belmont.

Sister McNally, a native of New York, entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. Her ministries have included nursing, teaching, counseling and practicing as a canon lawyer.

As a canon lawyer, she has served as a member of the marriage tribunals for the Archdiocese of Miami and the Diocese of Charlotte, and as a canon law teacher in formation programs for the Sisters of Mercy, the Benedictines of Belmont Abbey and the Trappists of Moncks Corner, S.C.

Born in Richmond, Va., Sister Solari entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. She has served as a teacher and campus minister for many years. Currently, she is an assistant in the media center at Holy Trinity Middle School in Charlotte.

A native of Argentina, Sister Dandison entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1984. Widowed prior to her entry, she is a mother and grandmother. She spent some of her first years with the Sisters of Mercy serving in the Widowed, Separated and Divorced Ministry in the diocese.

She also has been a Mercy presence in the diocese's Hispanic ministry in Davie County since 1996, where she serves those who struggle with language and other difficulties in the health and government systems.

WANT MORE INFO?

For more information on the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community, visit www.mercysc.org.