Nun's story personal, but is felt by family

By ALICIA GILLETTE

"The two best things that have hap-ned to Rome this year are Connie d Pope John Paul II."

and Pope John Paul II."
The statequent was made by Father Thomas O'Connor, an Irish priest statement in Rome, Italy We met at a reception following the "Caremony of Commitment," when my youngest sister Connic Cummiskey became a religious of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (RSCJ).

With me in Rome were my daughter Mary, 21, my sister Mimi Murphy and her two children Liz, 9, and Tom, 17, of Tuscon, Ariz.

Tuscon, Ariz.

"My sister the sister is going to make her final vows as a Religious of the Sacred Heart num," I told friends before leaving Birmingham.

As background, let me explain that the RSCI is the same religious order which operates the Academy of the Sacred Heart in Bloomfield Hills, one of over 200 Sacred Heart schools and colleges the society has organized.

PICTURE IF YOU WILL a rather porty, 41-year-old version of "The Flying Nan" with horr-immed spees. Delete the habit, recostume her in a khaw wrap skirt and blue or red bluese. Mix the ingredients all together and you have my sister, Mary Constance Commiskey, RSCJ, delightful, humorous, crazy, reverent-yet-irreverent, bright and thoughtful. When Comine was 4, we, her older sisters, thought she was possessed by the devil. She had long platimum curfs, endless energy, and a sophisticated set of lungs.

these energy, and a sophisticated set of lungs.

Today she would be considered prececcious." In 1942 we classified her as a "brat." Nevertheless, Connie managed to graduate from St. Hugo School in Bloomfield Hills, and in 1957, the Academy of the Sacred Heart, then located on Lawrence Avenue in Detroit.

That's where it all began. The nun story, that is. Connie shared her

Heart in 1800.

Today it is used as a residence for retired Italian religious personnel as well as a day care and youth center for children of the Trastevere district of Rome. Wills Lante was also a tempo-time of the control of the

In 1956 Connie was a high school student at Sacred Heart, commuting dily from Birtnigham to Detroit.

"It lought I wanted to be a mun in the Itling rade, but I never said anything to anybody. During my senior year I felt the same way, but thought I should have more experience with life. Actually, I didn't think I could face living with all those women," she said with an ease, hearty laugh.

ly, I dign't think I could race inving with all those women," she said with an easy, hearty laugh.
"I loved the society. One thing that attracted me to it was the fact that all the nuns were able to keep their own personalities. They were individuals

on a door by received work experience."

On and only communicated while Connie left a retailing career at J. L. Hudson's in Detroit to work as a buyer of junior spyrtwear, coats and dreases at Woodward and Lottrup Department Store in Washington, D.C.

Finally, at age 26, she contacted the Provincel of the New York province of the Sacred Heart. But, for personal

reasons — as well astermin, within the Catholic Chirech and various recipion orders — Comme delayed entering for lignoss the until 1999. She was 10 years old.

I remember recogning the twas of her decision with supprise indevising and a general lark of extramation My mother was in soors Did Awil any problematic but supprises My store than the single properties. My store differential than the single properties of the art approval.

Who I wendered should no belong the

approval

Why, I wondered should my future of entering a sociation that formed to be dying on the super What the sums who do not be she doing entering use constant. I form were supposedly leaving and new roles continued to demand. What has happened to dailed the different particular stated career and others to see all others to take the services.

It took much prayer and palian busbands wire income stiffe my multar not



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So much for the statistics, but they are necessary to the story of my sister, he sister.

HICTURE IF YOU WILL a rather properly, 41-year-old version of "The Plysical Number of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat, who is ingentional all together and you have my sister, Mary Constance Commiskey, RSCI deligatiful, humorous, crazy, reverent-yet-irreverent, bright and thoughful.

When Connie was 4, we, her older sisters, thought she was possessed by the deril. She had long platinum curls, endedil Sister was possessed by the deril. She had long platinum curls, endedil Sister was possessed by the deril. She had long platinum curls, endwind up business, and incessant wailing and shouting from nearby Regina Coeli prison. The shouting drifted across the courtyard through screenless 18 thought and a humane. Although not spot courty windows.

In this circus setting in Rome, I would for the first time about my women, but I treed did, would eater the being able to share her story with a member of the family women, but I dever did, would eater the story with a member of the family women, but I dever did, would eater the story with a member of the family women, but I dever did, would eater the story with a member of the family women, but I dever did, would eater the story with a member of the family women, but I dever did, would eater the story with a member of the family women, but I doed for years.

T said to God that 1'd get a college degree fairs. And then when I decred work experiments and the story with a member of the family and the proper women, but I doed for years.

T said to God that 1'd get a college degree fairs. And then when I decred work experiments and the story with a member of the family would eater the story with a member of the family would eater the story with a member of the family would eater the story with a member of the family would eater the story with a member of the family would eater the story with a member of the family would eater the story with a member of the family would eater the story with

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