

Livonia nun named to top Felicians' post

Sr. Mary Clarentine Dzienis, provincial superior of the Felician Sisters Livonia Province, now is vicar general for the order's worldwide organization.

She was elected to the order's second-in-command post during a general chapter meeting in Rome on July 7. Mother Mary Adamus Lewicka of Lodi, N.J., was re-elected superior general to serve a second six-year term.

Sister Clarentine, now in Rome, will return to Livonia July 26 to conduct an election for a successor in the post she has held here since 1977.

That vote will take place "within the next few months," according to Sister Mary Emelita, secretary for the Livonia province.

The new provincial superior will take over her responsibilities as president of the corporate board of Madonna College, St. Mary Hospital, Ladywood High School and the St. Joseph Home Day Care Center in Jackson.

IN HER NEW office, Sister Clarentine will administer with Mother Adamus and five other administrative board members the affairs of a 3,486-member religious community that has provinces in the United States, Canada, Italy, Poland, England, Brazil and Kenya.

As a board member, she will have responsibilities in overseeing administration of all Felician schools.

She also will be a board member for the newly established Felician Health Care System which will oversee administration of the order's hospitals, nursing homes, homes for the aged and other health care facilities.

Sister Clarentine will be based in Rome, said Sister Emelita, but like other board members will spend a good deal of her time traveling.

"Each of the administrative board members visit each province and talk to each sister at least once in the six-year term," added the Livonia nun.

Other members of the administrative board are Sister Mary Bonaventur Paszek, Sister Mary Rosette Kubisty, Sister Mary Aloia Stozek, Sister Mary David Krasowski and Sister Mary Edith St. Jean.

The order was founded in Warsaw, Poland, in 1855.



Sister Mary Clarentine Dzienis

SISTER CLARENTINE was born in Fitchburg, Mass., in 1919 and has lived in the Detroit area since early childhood.

She attended Our Lady Help of Christians and the Felician Academy in Detroit and earned a bachelor's degree from Madonna College when it was located in that city.

Later, the new vicar general earned a master's degree in education from the University of Notre Dame and did post-graduate work in library science at Wayne State University.

She spent 13 years teaching in elementary parochial schools in Detroit, Manistee and Toledo, and for the next 15 years taught Latin in high schools in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

From 1960 to 1965, Sister Clarentine was assigned to work in Rome as a secretary to a judge of the Sacred Roman Rota, a court. She returned to Rome twice: in 1974 to serve on the constitutions commission for the Felician Sisters; and in 1976 as a delegate to the general chapter.

From 1972 to 1976 she served as chairman of Madonna's library department. She then went to St. Florian High School in Hamtramck in a similar post.

Elected five years ago to succeed Sister Mary Columbine as head of the Livonia-based province, she became leader of nearly 500 sisters.

Several assignments in Rome have enabled the new vicar general to speak fluent Italian.

class reunions

The Observer & Eccentric will help locate classmates for school reunions. Submit announcements in writing to Margaret Miller, Observer & Eccentric, 26251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Full names must be used with telephone numbers.

● ROCHESTER 1962  
The Rochester High School class of 1962 is planning its 20th reunion Saturday, Aug. 7 in the Rochester Elks Club. For details call Bill Korompay at 651-1893.

● HAMTRAMCK 1937  
The 45th reunion of the class of 1937 of Hamtramck High School will be held Saturday, Aug. 28 in the Polish Country Club, 5181 E. Outer Drive, Detroit. For more information, contact Florence Jezewski at 881-6169. Friends of class members are welcome.

● DENBY 1952  
The class of 1952 at Denby High School will gather for a 30-year reunion Saturday, Nov. 6 at the Porter Street Station, 1400 Porter, Detroit. The station is owned by 1952 graduate Ron Malis. For more information and to obtain tickets, write to Denby 1952 class reunion, PO Box 76, Washington, Mich., or call Adrienne Jordan Zagaski at 776-9677.

● DENBY 1947  
The reunion of the class of 1947 will be held Saturday, Sept. 25. For details write to 1947 Denby Reunion, 30123 Bentley, Livonia 48154.

County wants Clinton Center open

The Oakland County Board of Commissioners went on record requesting that the state keep the Clinton Valley Center, a mental health facility, open and properly staffed to accommodate patients incapable of community placement.

The board responded to a recent report that the Pontiac facility may be closed in October due to severe budget cuts within the Department of Mental Health. One possible plan is that some patients would be transferred to other institutions, while others would be placed in community homes.

The commissioners maintained that the closing of CVC may result in inadequate facilities for mentally ill persons requiring hospitalization in Oakland County.

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