

Suburban Life

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Sister Mary Ignatius Donay, a Sister of Mercy for 68 years, will celebrate her 80th birthday at a benefit dinner in her honor to raise scholarships for gifted and needy students.

Sister Ignatius

Celebrated artist and teacher turns 80

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

SISTER MARY IGNATIUS De-ny, who was once featured in *Scholastic Magazine* as the only art teacher in the U.S. to have her art students win blue ribbons and Hallmark Awards for 35 consecutive years, will be 80 years old this month.

It is both fitting and typical of the woman who has given so much of her career to promoting the work of her students, and their art careers, to be celebrating her birthday with a dinner that will raise funds to give scholarships to young gifted and needy students.

The celebration will take place Monday, Oct. 26, in Mercy High School where she taught for 30 years.

It will begin with a mass at 5 p.m. concelebrated by the Most Reverend James A. Hickey, Archbishop of Washington, D.C., who was a student of hers when she taught grade school in Midland, and by her brother, The Rev. E.F. Denay of St. Joseph Parish in Traverse City.

The gala will continue with wine, hors d'oeuvres and dinner. "It is going to be a very elegant affair, with lovely engraved invitations that have been sent out and even a red carpet extending from the airport into our largest formal lounge," Sr. Ignatius said.

"There was a little bit of a joke about sending invitations out to 500 or 600 of my closest and dearest friends. But I could have made a list of 1,000. I think and hope I have that many friends."

who has extensive knowledge in fund-raising, mostly through her volunteer work for Cranbrook Institute. "It was providential that I should be talking to those two people within a few days of one another. How good God is to me," she said.

Tickets for the dinner are \$100, with all of the proceeds earmarked for Mercy High School Endowment Fund. Reservations are made by calling the school Development Office, 476-8020.

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— Sister Mary Ignatius



RANDY BORST

The door to the studio in Mercy Center where Sister Ignatius works every morning is always open. She says that's the way she lets

all of her friends know they are always welcome.

Yule cards welcome

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers carries on its tradition of publishing holiday greeting cards for non-profit and non-political organizations.

The annual special promotion for the numerous charitable organizations that work year around in the battle against diseases or social problems will appear in all 12 O & E newspapers Thursday, Oct. 29.

Non-profit and non-political groups are invited to submit five copies of each card they will be selling. The newspaper reserves the right to select one sample for publication if more than one style of card is submitted.

Every effort will be made to publish all cards received by Tuesday, Oct. 28. Cards received later will be published throughout the holiday

season as space permits. Information pertaining to ordering cards will appear with the photos of the cards to aid readers in making their selection.

Those submitting cards are requested to include such information as price per box, number of cards per box, price for imprinting and deadline for imprinting, addresses and phone numbers for ordering.

The cards are to be mailed to: Lorraine McClish, Farmington Observer, 33205 Grand River, Farmington 48024.

The display of cards in several O & E offices is another tradition that will continue.

The greeting card duplicates will be mounted in display books for our readers to view at their leisure and select the card they want to order to aid their favorite charity.

SISTER IGNATIUS, a Sister of Mercy for 68 years, was born Oct. 26, 1907 in Oshtemo, Mich. and grew up on a farm near Pinconning, the fifth of seven children.

She entered the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy in Grand Rapids, in 1922, and has received degrees from Michigan State University and the University of Notre Dame. She studied art in Art Institute of Chicago.

Her teaching career began in Michigan parochial elementary schools and for several years she was the principal of an elementary school in Midland.

A new life opened for her when she began teaching art, in 1941, for Mercy High School, which at the time was located in Detroit.

Her work as an artist in sculpture, mosaics and calligraphy continued parallel with her work as an art teacher.

Her mosaics can be seen in numerous local churches and institutions, and some of them are displayed in the corridors of Mercy High School and Mercy Center.

One, 14 feet high, is behind the altar in Mercy Chapel.

A series on the eight beatitudes, each two by eight feet high, are hung in St. Mary Hospital in Grand Rapids.

A large memorial piece is displayed in the hospital operated by the Sisters of Mercy in Muskegon.

And this week she completed a mosaic, five by seven feet, that is ready for crating to be sent for hanging next to the door of the Reconciliation Room in St. Aidan Catholic Church in Livonia.

Sister Ignatius was named "Artist-in-Residence" by the Farmington Area Arts Commission in 1978.

AFTER RETIRING from teaching high school students, Sister Ignatius continued creating glass mosaics and offered classes to adult artists in a spacious room-turned art studio in Mercy Center.

The door is always open.

"It's open because I want the whole world to come in," she said. "I am so richly blessed with friends. That's the way I let them to know they are always welcome," she said.

Two of those friends who came to call were Don Johnson and Mary Ellen Darin. During their separate visits, each volunteered to be a co-chairperson of the benefit dinner.

"God provides," St. Ignatius said of those visits. "At the time we were just starting to talk about the benefit. We had done nothing at all about chair people or committees."

Johnson is a Grosse Pointe florist who said he fell in love with Sister Ignatius when he was six years old and never got over it. He will be providing the red carpet for the party, as well as all the flowers for 50 tables, plus arrangements for the room.

Darin is another former student, now an attorney in Lathrup Village,



Thai tribal crafts

Tribal crafts from the artisans who produce them in Thailand will be on sale Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 29-31, in First Presbyterian of Farmington, 29165 Farmington Road. The SERRV (Sales Exchange for Refugee Rehabilitation Vocations) boutique offers a market for the crafts of numerous developing countries, whose highly skilled crafters have no other outlet. It is operated by Church of the Brethren and returns the highest margin of profit possible to the individual craftsman.

LIZ CLAIBORNE HOSIERY SALE



20% OFF

Our entire line of Liz Claiborne hosiery is on sale. Now's your chance to get the terrific comfort and support that make any kind of leg work a breeze. Choose from the complete collection of Sheer, Control Top, and Fast or Lock pantyhose, all at 20% savings! Reg. \$3.65, now 2.40-5.20. Selection may vary by store. Sale ends October 26 in Hosiery.

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