



Photographic memory: Yassen Siddique focuses on his family Ayesha and Sherin Siddique.

Mercy grads pledge to make world better

BY LARRY O'CONNOR
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With a round of applause and a few nays, members of the 1996 Mercy High graduating class were ushered into a new world.

Hands of applause came from proud parents and staff during commencement ceremonies Friday at Oakland University's Baldwin Pavilion. Animal cheers came from a pair of goats along with a pony, calf, pig and turkey in front of the Farmington Hills private school, which was turned into the Circle M ranch for a western-style after graduation party that ran well into the early morning.

No mention as to who cleaned up afterward, but the 1996 graduating class certainly cleaned up academically.

This year's senior boasted 42

students with 3.75 or better grade point averages. Of 194 students, 108 were made the honor roll with a 3.2 GPA or better.

Sharon Catherine Agacinski gave the farewell address as valedictorian. Marjory Elizabeth DeWard gave the greeting as salutatorian.

"They were absolutely a top-notch class in every way," said Mercy High Principal Sister Regina Marie Doelker. "They were united There was leadership and they were very spirited."

Some students put in as many as 200 community service hours.

Such achievements fit in with the overall expected qualities Mercy graduates.

"We look for girls that have confidence in themselves and in their ability to make a difference in world," Doelker said. "This



Class act: Salutatorian Marjory DeWard and Valedictorian Sharon Agacinski embrace after DeWard's greeting to the gathering of family, friends and faculty.



STAFF PHOTO BY EDWARD LEMMON

A tribute: Senior class officers present flowers to a statue of the Virgin Mary at Friday night's formal ceremony at Meadowbrook Baldwin Pavilion in Rochester Hills. The carnations represent 5 virtues to guide the graduates: mercy, human dignity, justice, help to the poor and service.

Moving on: Hope Harrison, left, Alexis Harrison, and Leila Hamade wait on stage to accept their diplomas from Mercy High School.



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