



Education Center for Women Opens in Rochester

Another dream was realized on March 1, when the School Sisters of Notre Dame opened Notre Dame Learning Center in Rochester, New York for low-income women and their children.

As the School Sisters of Notre Dame continue their commitment to the education of persons, the center grew out of the desire to respond to the needs of the poor in the city. After extensive research of social, parish, and government programs, the sisters concluded that low-income women in the Rochester area would benefit from a learning center, similar to those already in operation in Bridgeport, CT (Caroline House), and Jamaica, Queens (Theresa Learning Center), and have worked for the past year to make this dream a reality.

"Our mission is to work with the underserved women and children of the Rochester area to help them gain the independence needed for a happy and healthy life," said Sister Lorraine Burns, coordinator for the center.

Sister Lorraine, who has always enjoyed helping others, is excited to be starting this new

venture at this point in her life. In June 2003, she retired as principal of Holy Family School in Rochester, where she had been since 1986.

"I'm excited to start something new," said Sister Lorraine, who is 73.

In addition to Sister Lorraine, the center will be staffed by Sister Mary Lou Brien in June as a full-time teacher.

The Notre Dame Learning Center offers such services as education in basic life skills; English as a second language; and tutoring for women and children.

The location for the center was chosen specifically because the area around the center is home to many immigrants who need language instruction and other services.

"Some of the women need basic nutrition, banking, budgeting and parenting skills as well as learning how to advocate for their children in the school system. We hope to help them with these and many other life skills," said Sister Lorraine.



S. Lorraine Burns and S. Mary Lou Brien, Notre Dame Learning Center.

The center was founded by a start-up grant from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, but is expected to become financially independent within several years. Currently, Sister Lorraine is looking for volunteers to help out at the center, and for help with grant-writing and fundraising.

Today, after 150 years, the School Sisters of Notre Dame continue to minister to God's people in Rochester, as well as throughout the world. So, even as they look back to the past 150 years of tradition in the Rochester area, SSNDs look forward to many more years of commitment, teaching, and working towards their mission of transforming the world through education.

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School Sisters of Notre Dame
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For more information, visit: www.ssndwilton.org

REST IN PEACE

Please join us in praying for
our deceased sisters:

Sister Mary Marcian Rotonno
b. September 25, 1900
d. February 14, 2004



Sister Roberta Tierney
b. January 1, 1939
d. January 21, 2004

May they rest in God's peace.