

A joyous jubilee celebration

The day ranged from solemn to festive — and stretched well on after the sun went down — as Sisters of St. Joseph, family and friends celebrated the lives of 28 “jubilarians.”

The order’s Jubilee Day on June 6 honored special anniversaries, ranging from one Sister who has served for 25 years up to a group of six who shared their 75th anniversary. Together they have served “the dear neighbor” for 1,595 years.

The program at the Concordia Motherhouse began with an outdoor Mass, celebrated by Father

Jack Schlaf, that recognized each of the jubilarians. Then the Sisters and their guests were treated to a special dinner prepared by Motherhouse staff. The dinner crowd filled both dining rooms, the auditorium and two outdoor tents.

And the party wasn’t over.

The altar area from the afternoon Mass was transformed into a stage early in the evening and music and dancing continued until after dark.

Almost all of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia based in 11 states around the country, as well as three of the 16 Sisters who serve in Brazil,

“came home” for the celebrations.

“It was a joyous day, from the very beginning to the very end,” said Sister Agnes Bernita Green — known fondly by everyone as Aggie B and one of the six Sisters celebrating 75 years in the order. “What a gift to all of us.”

The 15 Sisters celebrating their 50th anniversary had a gift of their own to offer: As part of the evening’s entertainment, they performed a parody of the Rodgers and Hammerstein song “I Enjoy Being a Girl,” which was a hit in 1959, the year they were received into the order.



PHOTO CAPTIONS

FAR LEFT: Father Jack Schlaf celebrates Mass from the gazebo in front of the Motherhouse June 6.

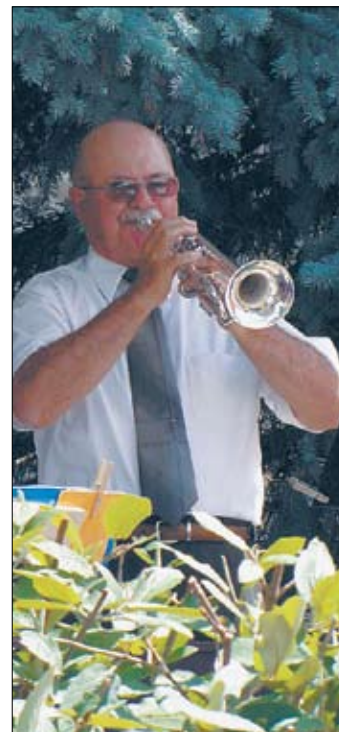
LEFT, top: Sisters from the 1959 bands perform a parody of “I Enjoy Being a Girl,” which was a hit the year they were received into the Sisters of St. Joseph. Those in the front row are, from left, Sisters Virginia Pearl, Anna Marie Broxterman, Betty Suther, Philomene Reiland, Shirley Meier, Diane Brin and Rosemary Farrell.

LEFT, bottom: Sister Faye Huelsmann offers the wine to Sister Gilberta Appelhans; trumpeter Paul Chopp adds flourishes throughout the music-rich Jubilee Mass.

RIGHT, top: As part of the jubilee ceremony, Laurie Kertz dances to “Love Changes Everything,” as sung by Sister Regina Ann Brummel, right.

RIGHT, middle: Sister Bette Moslander, left, congratulates Sister Marcia Allen on her 50s years as a Sister of St. Joseph.

RIGHT, bottom: As dusk falls, more dancers — led by an enthusiastic Sister Christy Cogil, in pink — crowd the impromptu stage in front of the Motherhouse.



For more photos & details on the jubilarians, go to <http://csjkansas.org>

Our 2009 Jubilarians

Celebrating 75 years:

- ▶▶ Donata Bissett, Concordia
- ▶▶ Redempta Eilert, Concordia
- ▶▶ Agnes Bernita Green, Concordia
- ▶▶ Jane Guenette, Concordia
- ▶▶ Helen Urban, Concordia
- ▶▶ Generosa Walker, Concordia

Celebrating 70 years:

- ▶▶ Susan Kongs, Concordia

Celebrating 60 years:

- ▶▶ Mary Augustine, Salina
- ▶▶ Doris Marie Flax, Ellis, Kan.
- ▶▶ Margaret Jilka, Concordia
- ▶▶ Lucy Schneider, Concordia
- ▶▶ Frances Cabrini Wahlmeier, Concordia

Celebrating 50 years:

- ▶▶ Marcia Allen, Concordia
- ▶▶ Jean Befort, Concordia
- ▶▶ Diane Brin, Rome, Ga.
- ▶▶ Anna Marie Broxterman, Concordia
- ▶▶ Rosemary Farrell, Silver City, N.M.
- ▶▶ Faye Huelsmann, Grand Junction, Colo.
- ▶▶ Patricia McLennon, Concordia
- ▶▶ Nancy Meade, Salina
- ▶▶ Shirley Meier, Salina
- ▶▶ Donna Otter, Teresina, Piaui, Brazil
- ▶▶ Virginia Pearl, Pawnee Rock, Kan.
- ▶▶ Philomene Reiland, Grayslake, Ill.
- ▶▶ Marilyn Stahl, Wichita
- ▶▶ Betty Suther, Concordia
- ▶▶ Mary Jo Thummel, Concordia

Celebrating 25 years:

- ▶▶ Christy Cogil, Concordia