

## *Sister Dorothy Mary Leising, SSND - 70 Year Jubilee!*



*Sister Dorothy Mary Leising was wonderfully bedazzled at her surprise 90th birthday party held at Holy Apostles, where Sister Dorothy had ministered for 25 years. At the parish-hosted party, friends performed a skit for her.*

It was a great happiness for me to be a teacher. It was much joy for me to see the children eager to learn. Often I had the honor to prepare the children to receive their First Holy Communion.

After many years teaching, I became interested in helping in church ministry. I heard of this poor church in Rochester, N.Y. where help was needed. I received the OK from the motherhouse and from the Rochester Diocese after I spoke to the necessary authorities.

I worked at Holy Apostles Parish for 25 years as a parish minister. My work at Holy Apostles was getting ready for daily Mass, reading at Mass and helping the priest distribute Holy Communion. My work was visiting the sick in hospitals, nursing homes, and private homes, also for funerals, seeing the family, getting necessary information for the funeral Mass, writing all the information for the priest and assisting at Mass. There were times when I led the cemetery service as well.

It was such a heartfelt experience to kneel at the bedside of a dying person, praying and singing a hymn to our Blessed Mother.

When a planned parish fundraiser lost its leader, the pastor asked me to take over, even though I had no fundraising experience. My sister, Blanche, also an SSND, help me planned and implement the fundraising walk for a number of years.

With prayers and gratitude, I am very grateful to SSND for making this all possible.

*Dorothy Mary Leising was born on February 29, 1924 in Buffalo, New York to parents, Mary Smith and George Leising, both natives of Buffalo. She was one of five brothers and four sisters, three became School Sisters of Notre Dame - Blanche, Florence and Dorothy Mary. From 1950 - 1990, Sister Dorothy Mary ministered as a teacher and administrator in Catholic schools in Washington, D.C.; Tacony, Pittsburgh and Mechanicsburg, Penn.; and Rochester, New York. She then served as pastoral minister at Holy Apostles Parish in Rochester for 25 years. She now ministers in prayer and presence at Villa Notre Dame in Wilton, Conn.*