

Ursuline Nun Celebrates Jubilee

Sister Thecla, O.S.U., dietician and cook at St. Mary's Mission School, will celebrate her Diamond Jubilee as an Ursuline Nun Tuesday, October 5.

Faculty, students and alumni of St. Mary's will also note that this is Sister's 46th year of service in the Alaska Mission field, first at Pilgrim Springs and then Akulurak.

Approximately 200 grade and high school students, mostly Eskimos of Western Alaska, will enjoy this

year again the cooking and administrative skill of this 81-year-old nun who is one of eight Ursulines who staff St. Mary's along with two Jesuit priests, two Brothers and eleven volunteer men and women teachers.

Born Theresa Battison 81 years ago in the little Italian village of Azzano Decimo, Sr. Thecla entered the Ursuline order in Cividale, Italy, served for a time at the Generalate House in Rome and at Calvi until 1919 when she was sent to Pilgrim

Springs where heavy manual work in domestic service awaited her in the days before electricity, oil or running water in the bush areas.

In 1941, she was transferred to Akulurak where she won the title of "best baker on the Yukon" and her bread continued to be a real staff of life at the new St. Mary's located in 1951 at the mouth of the Andreafsky River on the Lower Yukon.

A gala program is planned for her at St. Mary's tomorrow.