Class of ’82 will be last at Mercy school of nursing

By MARY BERGIN
and DOUG ZELLNER
Northwestern Staff Writers

The class of 1982 will be the last to graduate from the three-year registered nurse diploma program at Mercy Medical Center’s School of Nursing.

The school, which has been in operation since 1891, will then close, hospital administrators said this morning. The action is primarily due to recommendations made by the Statewide Study on Nursing, a report that’s been circulating since 1978, according to hospital spokesman John B. Tischer.

The study concluded that the diploma and practical nursing programs are gradually phased out within the next 10 years. Only two registered nursing programs would remain — one in the northeastern region of the state.

Mercy nurses will be the only ones who will graduate from the school, which has been in operation since 1891. The school will be closed as of January 1982.

Joan Nottall, education administrator at the Mercy School of Nursing, said the current freshman class totals 32. It is about one-half the size of a normal freshman class.

The school is now operated by the Sisters of Mercy, Madison General Hospital, and the school has also announced the closing of its nursing school in 1982.

Schulz said that the school had a press conference this morning, and that he was thinking of making a transition to a two-year technical education program.

School of nursing will be missed

Many of our patients return to the community through the cooperation of all the disciplines and therapies available to them on a daily basis. It is true that some people will remain here, and this fact gives us the privilege of becoming not only nurse but, in some cases, friend, confidant and surrogate family. It is an experience not to be missed. It cannot help but affect the lives of both patient and nurse in so many, many ways.

The sad part of this day — it is the last one that Mercy School of Nursing has consistently graduated nurses who are excellent in their field. Many changes have taken place here, and although we do not now see the habits of the Sisters of the Sorrowsful Mother who formerly taught there, the faculty has continued their high standards through the years. The nurses who formerly ran the school deserve a word here: They switched to more self-discipline that sometimes one must have to order to do the best job and to bring the best out of the people they work with. It is a good rule of thumb.

3. The nurses have shaping my life for the better and the rules and to pass on to my children.

Mercy School of Nursing will soon be gone, but it will never be forgotten as long as it lives on in the minds and hearts of its many graduates.

Esther Queer Geibhrech, C.N.
Director of Nursing
Oshkosh Oaklheim Center Graduate — Mercy School of Nursing

Published in Oshkosh, Wis. Friday, December 14, 1979 44 Pages 204