

# New Math Courses Work of Nazareth Nun

Sequential mathematics, a new math option for Regents credit in New York State, has been the course of study for all math students at Nazareth Academy for several years. Sister Ann Xavier Gantert, SSJ, writer in residence at Nazareth, has participated in the development and application of the math program at the school over an eight-year period.

In May 1972, Sister Ann Xavier was invited by the Bureau of Mathematics of the State Education Department to participate in a two-day conference to outline a revised syllabus for high school mathematics. That summer, working with Richard Klutsh, a teacher at Hunter College High School in New York City, she began writing the revised syllabus, a project

which continued over the next four years.

In September 1974, 20 schools began to use Course 1 of the revised syllabus on an experimental basis. The pilot program was to continue for four years before the syllabus would be made available to all teachers wishing to use it. Each year, another course level was added as students were prepared for it.

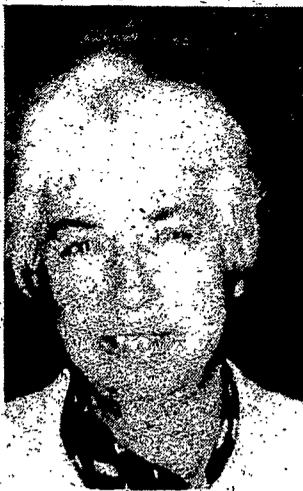
In September 1975, two years before the new program was offered on a statewide basis, Course 1 was offered at Nazareth. The school was allowed to begin the pilot course because of Sister Ann's involvement in writing the program. In September of 1976, all freshmen classes at Nazareth began using Course 1. The new syllabus, Sequential Mathematics, was offered as an option to the

existing math course in any schools choosing to use it in 1977 and Regents examinations for the course were prepared.

Teaching a revised syllabus necessarily creates a problem of finding suitable materials for the new course. In lieu of a suitable text, Sister Ann prepared materials for the independent progress students at Nazareth who were taking the Sequential Math course. In 1979-80, she offered suggestions on a textbook for Course 1, which was subsequently published by Amsco School Publications, and prepared the answer key for that text.

Currently, Sister Ann is working as a consultant in the preparation of a textbook for Course 2, a project which includes reading materials as they are prepared and suggesting changes and improvements. After the text for Course 2 has been completed, she will begin work on the text for Course 3.

Sister's contribution to the study of mathematics is not limited to revising courses of study and preparing textbook materials. She is teaching the new program herself. At present, Sister has a class in Course 1 and an independent progress group in Courses 2 and 3 at Nazareth Academy. In addition, she is teaching a class in Methods in the Continuing Education program at Nazareth College. Continuing her work as Consultant to the State Education Department, Sister



SR. ANN XAVIER

is a member of a committee to prepare Regents examinations in Course 1.

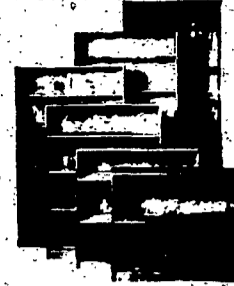


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