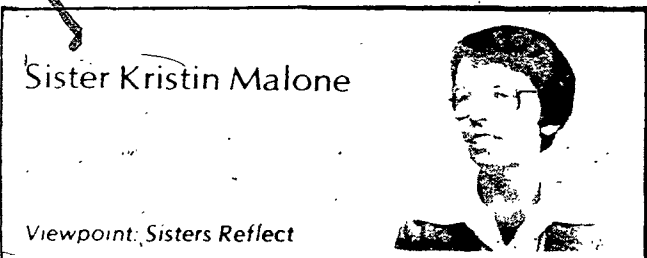




Celebrate 50th

Russell and Anna Guarino recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church, where they have been parishioners most of their married life. In attendance were their maid of honor, Mrs. Sadie Miale, Mrs. Guarino's sister; and best man, Anthony Guarino, the groom's brother. Following the Mass they were feted at a party planned by their children, Mrs. Clement (Rosemary) Leonardo, Sister Barbara Guarino, RSM, and Kathleen Guarino.



Sister Kristin Malone

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

The Ministry Of Art

A year ago this Lent, I designed and created a batik hanging which I call "The Return of the Prodigal." The image made itself known to me over a period of months. The figures at first were far away from one another, the young person having just decided to return, the father still waiting. But by the time the materials and I were ready it was the embrace that came forth, not the waiting. My own need for comforting and healing cried out through my hands. Applying the wax to the cloth became a prayer of longing, and that longing became visible for all to see, and the warm, tender response to that longing was visible as well.

There comes a moment of blessing in the midst of creation, sometimes in the creating, at the completion, or perhaps long after. It is that revelation and response made first by our Creator. "It is good," a glimpse of more than what was planned, seeing for the first time what has been spoken through my emotions and thoughts, my hands and heart and head, this piece of cloth with wax and dye. And this image, this art, has only begun to speak.

It is a sacrament, signifying a reality and deepening that reality. I see faces and responses of those who also long to be reconciled, long to be held close, those who already

SIGNED MASS

St. Theodore's Parish, 168 Spencerport Rd., will use the services of an interpreter for the deaf at the 10 a.m. folk Mass each Sunday, beginning Easter, April 19.

know the tenderness they long for.

The experience of doing that batik, as well as the batik itself, was very energizing and dramatic. Though that is not always the case, it is an illustration of my experience as a Christian artist. Art is an incarnational experience. What we see and touch leads us beyond to what is spiritual and intangible. At the same time, what we know through intuition and through faith becomes tangible through the artist's hands. It is a gift to know that creation has the capacity to lift the human spirit, a need not always recognized in a pragmatic and materialistic society.

In recent years, the Church has become more aware of the poor and the downtrodden, and of the call to relieve oppression. As I grow in this ministry I find that I have to be open to all of reality, not only what appears to be beautiful. I delight in painting the beauties of nature, and find and give joy in this, but at the same time my faith and my work are pulling me into situations in the midst of God's people, into migrant camps, soup kitchens, city plazas, and city parks. I am becoming more aware of the beauty and hospitality of those who are poor and those who suffer and attempt to tell their story through the images they provoke. I am challenged by the potential of art to recognize and proclaim the Kingdom of God in our midst, while at the same time signaling the incompleteness of that Kingdom in our lives.

Sister Kristin Malone, S.S.J., is a full-time artist in the Rochester area.



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