

Local News



Sister Rosalie Maier

Congregations celebrate sisters' jubilees of commitment, service to religious life

Varied ministries characterize jubilarians among Sisters of St. Joseph

"I think I hold the world record for speed in becoming a sister," Sister Rosalie Maier said, looking back on her 70 years as a Sister of St. Joseph. "I entered (the convent) in June, and about 10 weeks later in August, I got my habit. "My father was one of those old-fashioned type of parents who thought girls shouldn't work," Sister Maier recalled. "After graduating from Nazareth Academy in 1917, I was ready to conquer the world, but in my house, there were no words to saturate with my father there. So there I sat at age 19, just breaking my heart. I stayed home one year, then entered the Sisters of St. Joseph."

Shortly after entering the convent, the young sister began challenging her father's bias against working women. An enthusiastic, dedicated teacher, she found her first love in English and her rewards in the reports of former students that her teaching as been very useful in their college courses, said Sister Maier, who now resides at the St. Joseph Convent and Infirmary on the grounds of the order's motherhouse.

"I wanted my students to know how to do research and how to write an expository essay," she explained. "So many of my girls come back to tell me that my lessons have served them well, and they tell me stories of their classmates who were helpless. My students had to help their classmates out by teaching them how to do research and paper outlines!"

Another accomplishment that makes Sister Maier proud to have served as an SSJ teacher in the Catholic school system has been reaching supposedly unteachable students. Sister's determination to reach her students made her insist that some of her male students — who administrators believed were incapable of learning — not be allowed to leave class to do yard work or maintenance.

"I make up my mind that they won't leave me without an education," the determined teacher remarked. "My kids find out that they can do something scholastic. You can teach

them with perseverance, giving these children not only an education, but also self-confidence."

Sister Maier's enthusiasm for English has influenced her students beyond the practical aspects of outlining and paragraph structure. "I converted one of my high school girls to a career as an English teacher in just one lesson 14 lines long," she recalled. "It was a sonnet by Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and after my explanation, she came up to me and said, 'If you can get that much out of 14 lines, I'll teach English, too!'"

Another former student often writes to let Sister Maier know of her recent accomplishments. Barbara Morrison Lloyd, a member of Nazareth Academy's class of 1962, is an award-winning freelance sports journalist and co-editor of the *Americas Cup Report*. She is co-author with Michael Levitt of the 1983 *Nautical Quarterly* book *UPSET: Australia Wins the Americas Cup*.

Lloyd gave Sister Maier a copy of that book, and the inscription she wrote on the flyleaf pinpoints the teacher's special contributions to her students: "To Sister Rosalie — Far and away the brightest, wittiest and most lovely teacher of my school years. Thank you. — Barbara Morrison Lloyd, June 1987"

The other SSJ 70th jubilarian is Sister Angela Marie Bell, a longtime teacher at the elementary-school level.

Two Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated this year their 65th anniversaries of entering the order. Sister Reparata Muldoon taught at both the elementary and secondary levels, and Sister Francis de Sales Murphy taught at the elementary-school level and also worked in social work and as a librarian.

Twelve SSJs celebrated their 60th jubilees this year. Sister Rosemary Burgio, who now serves as a remedial-reading classroom aide at St. Ambrose School, has had a long career teaching on the elementary level and also served as disciplinarian at Nazareth Academy and as a teacher of normal school extension classes.

Sister Albertine Devereaux is now retired from her career as an elementary-school teacher and secretary.

Sister Margaret Clare Magill is now retired from her work in elementary education and food service.

Sister Carmel Marie Tremonte is a retired elementary-school teacher.

Sister Marjorie Carron is now retired from her years as an elementary-school and music

teacher, and clerical worker.

Sister Marie Celine Doherty, who once worked in the area of child care, continues her sewing efforts for St. Joseph's Villa on a semi-retired basis.

Sister Marie Catherine Manley is retired from her 48-year career in teaching at Nazareth Academy and work as a parish visitor.

Sister Rose Teresa Clark has retired from teaching music and directing musicals at Nazareth Academy.

Sister Dorothy Agnes Tyrrell — who taught at diocesan elementary schools, Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College, and served as formation coordinator for the order — now does volunteer work at the Nazareth College library.

Sister Marion Patricia Costello, who has served as an elementary and secondary teacher, high school librarian and motherhouse receptionist, now does clerical work for the order.

Sister Marie Clare Keele is now retired from her work as an elementary-school teacher and receptionist at the convent and infirmary.

Sister Mary Andrew Palange now works as a substitute teacher in diocesan elementary schools, after a long career.

Two Sisters of St. Joseph celebrated their 50th jubilees this year. Sister Helen Baker is

maintenance director at Nazareth Academy and previously worked as an elementary-school teacher and cafeteria director.

Sister Marie Dominic Bennett, who now works as a remedial teacher in the primary grades and as a church sacristan, previously taught at the elementary-school level.

Ten Sisters of St. Joseph are celebrating their 25th jubilees this year.

Sister Joanne Hasselwander is an elementary-school music teacher.

Sister Ellen Kuhl is involved in novitiate formation work in Brazil.

Sister Marilyn Reeves is an elementary-school principal.

Sister Marjorie Maybee is on sabbatical.

Sister Patricia Carroll is a junior-high principal.

Sister Suzanne Wills does social work in Brazil.

Sister Marie Castagnaro is administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira.

Sister Sheila Connor is an elementary-school principal.

Sister Dolores Turner is a pastoral agent in Brazil.

Sister Rita Jongen works in administration within the Sisters of St. Joseph.



Sisters of St. Joseph celebrating their 60th jubilees gather for a group photograph. They are (front, left to right): Sisters Marie Celine, Marie Clare, Carmel Marie, Marie Catherine, Rose Teresa, and Dorothy Agnes; (second row) Marjorie Carron, Mary Andrew, Albertine, Rosemary Burgio, Margaret Clare, and Marion Patricia.

Eleven Sisters of Mercy celebrate anniversaries

Eleven Sisters of Mercy of Rochester marked anniversaries in religious life this year and were honored by their congregation at the annual Mercy Day in September.

Celebrating their 60th anniversaries are: Sister Mary Regina Feltz has been doing visitation work in the Greece area since 1977. Previously, she had been a teacher in diocesan elementary schools for 43 years.

Sister Mary Colette Frank has been at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, since 1943, serving primarily as an X-ray technician and instructor. Since 1973, she has served in the hospital's Pastoral Care Department and also does visitations. Prior to her hospital ministry, she taught for 15 years, spending 11 of them at St. Mary's School, Corning.

Sister Mary Alice Hayden participates in the congregation's Spiritual Apostolate, a ministry of prayer for particular needs. She taught for 40 years, primarily at St. Andrew's and Mt. Carmel elementary schools in Rochester and

at Holy Family elementary school in Auburn, her hometown. She then did clerical work for 14 years in the congregation's administrative offices.

Sister Mary Joachim Pearson is working in the Guidance Department and tutoring at Notre Dame High School, Elmira. She has been a teacher for 60 years, the last 48 of them spent in Elmira. She taught for 15 years at Elmira Catholic High School (now defunct) and has been at Notre Dame for the past 33 years, ever since the school opened in 1955.

The Sisters of Mercy's seven silver jubilarians celebrating 25 years in the order are:

Sister Jeanne Marie Collins teaches at St. Rita School, West Webster, and leads the folk group at Annunciation Church.

Sister Gloria Ruocco coordinates emergency services at the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry in Elmira.

Sister Audrey Synnott is poetry editor for *Sister's Today*, a national magazine for reli-



Mercy Sisters (from left) Mary Alice Hayden, M. Regina Feltz, Mary Joachim Pearson and Mary Colette Frank are celebrating their 60th jubilees.

gious, and assists at the Mercy Prayer Center, Rochester.

Sister Mary Ann Binsack is the director of the Department of Religious Education for the Diocese of Rochester.

Sister Marcia Kusse recently returned from St. Paul, Minn., after having spent 16 months at the Franciscan Center for Wholistic Living. She will be returning to parish ministry.

Sister Barbara Moore is executive director of Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, and is actively involved in ecumenical preaching and teaching.

Sister Nancy O'Brien is a rural minister in Tioga County.

Five sisters observe silver, golden jubilees

Five sisters in other communities of women religious are also celebrating jubilees this year. They are:

- Sister Rose Crivelli, MFP, 50 years.
- Sister Maria Coisolata, OP, 50 years.
- Sister Mary Stephen, OP, 25 years.
- Sister Joan Alice Randall, OSF, 50 years.
- Sister Loreto Reynolds, SSND, 50 years.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Courier-Journal wishes to thank Maryellen Potts and Sister Joan McDowell of the Sisters of St. Joseph; Sister Elaine Kolesnik of the Sisters of Mercy; and Sister Dolores Banick, diocesan vicar for religious; for providing this information.

Skiing to highlight Stella Maris program

Downhill skiing at Swain Ski Center will highlight Camp Stella Maris' annual Winter Camp from February 12-17.

The program, which is scheduled during schools' winter vacation, is designed for students aged 11 to 16.

Participants will be housed at the camp, and will travel to and from the ski center. Campers will take part in various activities in addition to skiing.

The cost of the week-long program is \$180 or \$200 for those needing to rent equipment. The fees will include room and board, lessons and lift tickets.

Call Linda Sette at (716)346-2243 for more information.

Bishop featured in campaign

Bishop Matthew H. Clark is among the community leaders urging Rochester-area residents to donate five hours per week and five percent of their income to charitable causes of their choice.

Give Five for Greater Rochester is the local effort behind a national campaign which aims to double the levels of volunteering and increase charitable giving throughout the coun-

try by 50 percent within five years. The program was created by Independent Sector, a non-profit corporation coalition of 650 corporations, foundations and agencies.

Bishop Clark and other local leaders and personalities appear in a series of television public service announcements and newspaper advertisements. Among other "Give Five" spokespersons are: Mitch Miller, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra conductor; Dr. Rose Marie Beston, Nazareth College president; Mary Therese Friel, Miss USA 1979; Rabbi Judea Aider, Temple B'rith Kodesh; Jackie Nudd, MIDS, Rochester executive director; and Bill Johnson, Urban League of Rochester president.