



Fifty-three Sisters of St. Joseph are celebrating their jubilees this year. Among those celebrating anniversaries are two sisters marking 70 years of religious service.

of Titusville, Fla. "It was a small, unique parish of close-knit families where everyone knew everyone else. The sisters were made to feel a part of this family due to the kindness and generosity of parishioners. They gave us a real sense of belonging."

Sister Rose Regina LaPergola is a native of Elmira.

"St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira was the ministry I found most satisfying," Sister LaPergola said.

"I love the opportunity to care for Christ in the person of the sick; those who are hurting and unwanted," she continued. "I love all people — to comfort and cheer them. I also love to pray for all people."

"I spent 35 years in the classroom and really enjoyed this experience as I made many friends. St. Paul's, Oswego, stands out in my life, as I loved the people and the children," said Sister Elizabeth Lawler, an Auburn native. "I still keep in touch with several of them. Also, St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Stephen's, Geneva, hold many happy memories."



Sister Agnes Mary Linehan is a native of Geneva.

"My ministry was teaching, and I loved every minute of it. Teaching religion in country parishes in the summer was a joy. The children were not exposed to sisters. It was fun seeing their reactions."



Sister Margaret Lombardo is a native of Rochester.

"Teaching young children — their openness, simplicity, trust, and eagerness made making the knowledge of God to them and helping them learn the A,B,C's a privilege and satisfaction."



"I found my Selma, Ala., ministry satisfying because it benefited the poor," said Sister Catherine Teresa Martin, a Rochester native. "The mission office work was an indirect contribution. Working with poor families, and my office assistance with a very poor black woman's cooperative were of direct assistance."



Sister Patrice Messner is a native of Rochester.

"I was privileged to work with teachers in the elementary schools for 30 years — a real challenge and joy (Nazareth Hall, served as supervisor of schools for the congregation and the diocese). The last years in active work were spent in Spiritual Ministry — a great gift from the Lord."



"I taught at St. Stephen's in Geneva (1940-46) and again (1971-77). I taught the children of my first children and I felt a very close bond," said Sister Virginia O'Brien, a native of Auburn.



"St. Anthony's, Elmira, stands out in my years of ministry. The people would do anything for the sisters, and the children were loving."

Sister Anna Louise Staub is a native of Rochester.

"Music has always been a vital part of my life. Besides the joy of performance, there has been the gift of producing beautiful harmonies with the many choruses I have trained and conducted through the years."



"In these latter years, I have felt called to spirituality ministry in the congregation. For the past 12 years I have directed At-Home Retreats. This ministry has allowed me to witness the profound changes which God produces in the lives of those who sincerely desire to be his disciple."

"In 1966, I was asked to be principal at St. Augustine's School in Rochester. Returning to the school of my childhood was a delightful experience. An interracial community of middle class culture existed. Full cooperation of parents allowed me to provide many assets for the children, such as the establishment of a library and learning center."



"The element which made me most enthusiastic in my ministries was present in all of them — working with people," said Sister Agnes Cecilia.

lia Troy, a Rochester native. "Whether this was the little children in elementary school, the high schoolers, the parents, or our own sisters — they were my inspiration and my challenge every day."

Sister Mary Wuest is a native of Olean.



"I found medical technology very satisfying because I was relating to patients, either doing special studies on them or just withdrawing blood samples for testing in the laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. In nuclear medicine technology I was more enthusiastic because my dealing with patients was more demanding and for a longer period of time, as, for instance, doing body scans. I also enjoyed working with my fellow workers, doctors, and nurses, who were a delight to be around and very helpful."

## Celebrating 50 years

Other orders are honoring jubilarians this year.

Sister Charity Gocshar, OLC, a Rochester native and former parishioner of Holy Apostles Church, is celebrating her 50th anniversary in the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity.

Currently the superior of the sisters' Gannondale community in Erie, Pa., Sister Gocshar had served as regional and assistant superior in Rochester and Erie. She is also a member of the Council of North American Union of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity.

Born in Rochester on April 21, 1918, Sister Gocshar is the daughter of the late Charles and Lillian Gocshar. She attended Holy Apostles Grammar School, Nazareth Academy and Rochester Business Institute, all in Rochester. She entered the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity on Feb. 1, 1942, and made her final vows on July 31, 1947.

Sister Gocshar taught at Rochester's Holy Angels Home, a residential center for wayward teenage girls, from 1942-51. She then served as the home's director from 1951-75.

A graduate of State University of New York Empire State College with a degree in social welfare, Sister Gocshar arrived at Gannondale Residential Center in June, 1986.

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