

# Sisters of St. Joseph celebrate silver jubilees

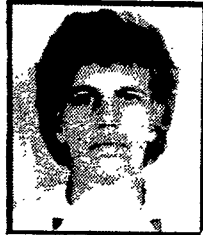
## Ministries range from education to Brazil mission

**EDITORS' NOTE:** This is the last in a series of articles honoring women religious celebrating their jubilees this year.

The following comments by Sisters of St. Joseph celebrating their 25th anniversaries were provided by the order's public relations office. Call 716/586-1000, ext. 72, for information.

### Celebrating 25 years

**Sister Jean Bellini** is a native of Bethpage, Long Island.



"I really enjoyed my years teaching at St. Agnes High School, primarily because I was able to be part of the changes that were happening in the country and world at the time — encouraging and supporting students in activism, environmental concerns, etc.," Sister Bellini said.

"Another ministry that was satisfying was serving as pastoral agent in Cachoeira Alta and Cacu, neighboring towns in the state of Goias, Brazil. We SSJs had the privilege of changing our social place — moving to the periphery of two villages, to live and minister among the poor," she added. "Their response was enthusiastic — active involvement in communities, both in the efforts of social organization and social change, as well as in the organization and formation of Christian community."

"I've been at Nazareth Academy for 22 years, and have been a science teacher, chair of the science department, and an administrative assistant which covers a wide range of activities," said Sister Dora Christian, a native of Oswego. "I enjoy dealing with young adults, and find it challenging and uplifting."



"Since 1988, I've been a duty chaplain at Rochester General Hospital. It's a difficult job, and something completely different from what I do at the Academy. At RGH, I minister to people who are in times of crisis, and it is a privilege to be there with them. It is amazing what it does for you."

"Throughout my 25 years in the congregation I have been blessed by God in the people I have served in my ministries," according to Sister Kathleen Clary, an Elmira native. "I have taught school, worked in the parish, served in the soup kitchen, and have been involved in guidance work and adult education. I have found my ministries very rewarding, challenging, and life producing."



Sister Eileen Curtis, a Rochester native, has been an occupational therapist at Mary Cariola Children's Center since 1984.

"This congregation has always en-

couraged my growth and development as a member and as an individual," Sister Curtis said. "As a member of community, I have had the privilege of working, praying, and studying with some very gifted women. All my ministries have introduced me to many fine people, dedicated to treating others with respect and providing a better quality of life."

"I like the balance of being a professional artist, and working with children who have special needs at the School of the Holy Childhood," noted Sister Anne De Mare, a native of Los Angeles, Calif. "Being an artist is my career, and I love it; but I find that both activities truly enrich the other."



**Sister Anna Derouchie** is a native of Malone, N.Y.



"I'm starting my sixth year as school library media specialist at Nazareth Academy, where I work with students in sixth- through 12th-grade. I coordinate library materials with curricula, and teach the student information skills. It's exciting to see them come in and search out materials on their own. They'll use these skills their whole life, no matter where they work or what they do."

Rochester native Sister Diana Dolce said, "Since 1972 I have been teaching at-risk students and helping them to learn not only the written curriculum prescribed by the state and diocese, but more importantly, the unwritten curriculum which focuses on attitudes and views of themselves as learners. My greatest joy has been in working with those students and standing with them as they learn to take risks and come to believe they 'can do it.' Over the last few years I have also had the privilege of teaching other teachers strategies for working with these children."



"I have cherished my membership as a Sister of St. Joseph of Rochester and my work in Catholic education," observed Sister Elaine Engert, currently the principal of St. Theodore School in Rochester.



The Rochester native added, "I have been enthusiastic about each of my missions in many ways. They were most satisfying because of the children, the young women at Nazareth Academy, and the parents and faculties. The people in each of my schools have always nourished me, called me to growth, and have given me happiness. I am grateful to God for their love and companionship on my life's journey."

"Since 1988, as part of our congregation's formation team in Brazil, I have found it satisfying to accompany Brazilian women as they discern their

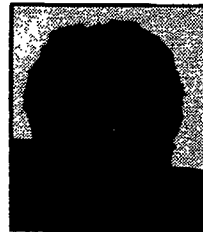


vocation to religious life and to perceive their growth in their commitment to the church and the poor of Brazil," noted Sister Maureen Finn. "Having Brazilian sisters is a challenge to us as a congregation, to make continually deeper attempts at inculturation."

The Rochester native added, "Vilmar Jose de Castro is someone I remember well — a 27-year-old religious education coordinator with whom I worked in Cacu in my first years in Brazil and who was murdered in October, 1986. His commitment to the struggle of the landless poor, his love for children and quality education, his creativity and desire to serve within the church made him invaluable."

"I sensed in Vilmar the same ideal of the Sisters of St. Joseph — communion with the neighbor, without distinction in a simple and discrete manner of being with people," she concluded.

**Sister Catherine Gibbons** is a native of Rochester.



"When I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in September of 1966, I had just graduated from Nazareth College of Rochester with a bachelor's degree in history and permanent teaching certification for grades nursery through 6. I was assigned to teach at Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton, thus beginning the fulfillment of a dream of being a teacher that I had had since I was a second-grader."

"Over the past 25 years I have had a career in education. My experiences have taken me to all areas of the diocese from suburban to rural to city parishes in the Monroe County, Southern Tier, and Finger Lakes areas. At the root of the educational ministry is the development of children and their eagerness to learn. There would be no schools without children. They possess a special simplicity, openness, eagerness, honesty, and challenge which make everything worthwhile."

**Sister Carol Klem** graduated from Nazareth Academy before studying at Nazareth College, earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1972 and a master's degree in education in 1976. The Rochester native also received permanent teacher's certification (N-6) from New



York state.

Sister Klem taught at St. Francis De-Sales, Geneva; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; and Trinity Montessori School, Rochester.

**Sister Margaret Mancuso** is a native of Oswego. She is currently the principal of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Brockport.



"Education has always been my ministry. It's one I love and have felt called to. I've enjoyed teaching intermediate and primary grades as well as children with special needs."

"I see the ministry of education as both an awesome privilege and responsibility. As a teacher and administrator I have tried to help children feel good about themselves, develop a love for learning, and grow in their relationship with God. Education is a ministry where I feel I can share my gifts with children, teachers, and families, and thus hopefully help to make this world a better place for all."

**Sister Marilyn Pray** has served at St. Joseph's Villa, Rochester; St. Monica's School, Rochester; Nazareth Academy; St. Martin's Place, a food



program at Mt. Carmel Church in Rochester; Tabasco mission in Mexico; and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

"Every ministry except my first, teaching at Corpus Christi School in Rochester, was chosen by me," the Rochester native said. "Each provided me an opportunity to serve, to grow, to challenge, and be challenged. I spent the longest time at Nazareth Academy, and that is meaningful in itself to me. I loved every ministry place very deeply."

A native of Buffalo, Sister Patricia Schoelles graduated from St. Agnes High School, Rochester. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Nazareth College in 1974; a master's degree in theology at the University of Notre Dame in 1977; and a doctorate in theology at Notre Dame in 1984.

In addition, Sister Schoelles received a grant to study in Germany, from August to October in 1981. She is currently assistant professor in moral theology at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md.

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