

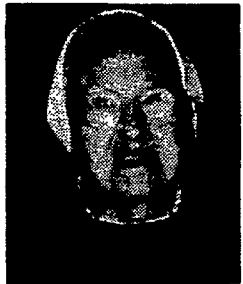
# Sisters of St. Joseph mark decades of service

PITTSFORD — Twenty-seven Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester are celebrating their jubilees this year. The order honored these women religious with a Sept. 23 liturgy and reception at the SSJ Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave.

The order's Public Relations Office asked women religious celebrating their 75, 70, 60, 50, and 25th jubilees various questions about their ministerial careers. The following are selected remarks by those sisters celebrating their 75th or 60th jubilees who wished to share their thoughts. For more information, call 716/586-1000.

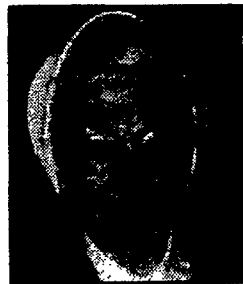
## 75 years

A native of Penfield, **Sister Nathalie Brahler, SSJ**, chose religious life after developing great affection for the sisters as a student at Holy Trinity School in Webster. She fondly remembers Sister Leonilla Murphy, SSJ, the order's superior and principal at St. Augustine's School, for her help when Sister Nathalie was teaching there. After 43 years of teaching elementary school, Sister Nathalie started a "second satisfying career" as a seamstress at the motherhouse in 1964.



"I enjoy sewing very much; it was a pleasure to sew for our sisters," she said. Sister Nathalie is currently active in Prayer Ministry. Born in Rochester, **Sister Joan of Arc Pero, SSJ**, is currently active in Prayer Ministry.

"Please join me in thanking God for my gift of 75 years in religious life," she said. "Much of it has been spent in Mt. Morris; this proved to be a very happy part of my life. Many of my other assignments too brought loving friends and happy days."



## 60 years

A native of Albion, N.Y., **Sister Bernice Benner, SSJ**, (Sister Rosalia) when asked why religious life was the right choice for her, responded "Constantly I am called to the awareness that God calls each of us to give our lives to Him in a special way. What we do is His work as God lives in each of us, loving us into eternity."



"My gratitude, too, is for all the wonderful people I have known and who have touched my life," she added. "In so many ways their helpful example and loving support so generously shared in a real sense, have been an inspiration throughout my life. I pray God's continued blessings upon these wonderful people. Also, from the depths of my heart I pray my profound gratitude for my precious vocation to religious life."

Sister Bernice is currently circulation manager for the SSJ Newsletter. Born in Sonyea, N.Y., **Sister Barbara Hughes, SSJ**, (Sister Euphemia) spent many years in teaching before she received training in cosmetology. "Some of my happiest years were in my service as community hairdresser at the motherhouse," Sister Barbara said. "I also greatly enjoyed my involvement with

the Rochester Cosmetology Association, where I made many friends throughout New York and the United States. Although no longer an active member, I still hold the title as honorary chaplain for the association."



Sister Barbara is currently manager of the Motherhouse Salon.

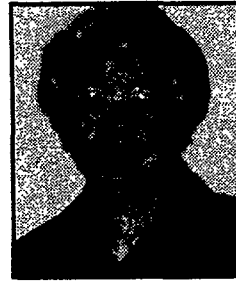
A native of Rochester, **Sister Ruth Magin, SSJ**, (Sister John Mary) taught business at Nazareth Academy for nearly 50 years.



When asked about her call to religious life, she said: "As a child at Holy Apostles School and a young woman at Nazareth Academy, I observed the dedication and zeal of the Sisters of St. Joseph as our teachers for God. The desire to emulate their spirit led me to join them as a sister of their order."

Sister Ruth is currently involved in congregational services.

A native of Elmira, **Sister Rita Malone, SSJ**, (Sister Thomas Marie) noted that "the most satisfying of my 35 years of teaching instrumental music were the years of my second assignment to St. Mary's School in Canandaigua, from 1964 to 1971. During those years, we formed a grade school marching band. Taken under the aegis of the Canandaigua Fire Department, we regularly marched in their parades throughout the area and, almost as regularly, took prizes."



Sister Rita also enjoyed a 25-year volunteer ministry tutoring in the Literacy Volunteers Program. "To be able to help a young truck driver whose grandmother had to accompany him on long trips because he was unable to read directions and street signs, and to watch his self-esteem grow as he learned to read for himself, was a very fulfilling experience," she said.

Sister Rita still works as a literacy volunteer and volunteers at Cornerstone Crafts, the motherhouse gift store.

Born in Rochester, **Sister Elizabeth**

**Mandell, SSJ**, (Sister Theopane) recalled: "My first ministry was teaching and my second ministry was social work. I recently retired after 50 years of service at St. Joseph's Villa. The last 20 of those years I have been doing intake evaluations at the Villa, helping young people and their parents examine their problem situations and participate in treatment plans. I found the work challenging and rewarding, especially in seeking out the strengths of each young person."



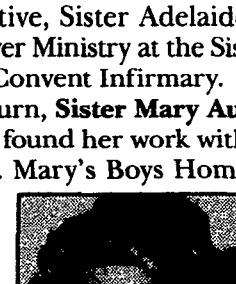
Sister Elizabeth now enjoys making crafts for Cornerstone Crafts.

After a 40-year teaching career, **Sister Adelaide Francis Marks, SSJ**, went on to perform tutorial work at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester. When asked to name a person or place that stood out in her years of ministry, Sister Adelaide recalled Father Thomas Mull, the cathedral's pastor.



"Father Mull made a lasting impression on me because he always looked out for the poor and less noticed." A Rochester native, Sister Adelaide participates in Prayer Ministry at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

A native of Auburn, **Sister Mary Audrey Mazzeo, SSJ**, found her work with the children at St. Mary's Boys Home and St. Joseph's Villa very rewarding.



"Our work was very clear," she said. "As a substitute parent to the children, we were to bring love, guidance, happiness and healing to these young hearts."

"I also enjoyed my second ministry working as a secretary and receptionist at St. Joseph's Hospital and St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Elmira," she continued. "Young men and women in the School of Nursing faced life-and-death situations. To listen, support, laugh and smile with these young people brought great satisfaction."

Sister Mary Audrey especially remembers Sister Mary Elaine Justino, SSJ,

at St. Joseph's Villa, and Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen, SSJ, at St. Joseph's Hospital.

"They were always available, never turning anyone away without help and graciously serving their people."

Sister Mary Audrey currently participates in the order's Prayer Ministry.

Born in Buffalo, **Sister Margaret Adelaide Owen, SSJ**, noted that: "My desire for religious life dates back to my high school years at Nazareth Academy. At the same time, the nursing and medical profession strongly appealed to me. I pursued both vocations."



Sister Margaret Adelaide joined the congregation in 1933 after graduating from St. Mary's Hospital Nursing Program. In 1935 she was sent to St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, where she continued to serve for 53 years. During those years, Sr. Margaret served as nursing supervisor and administrator at the hospital.

"The support, advice and encouragement which I received enabled me to work for the expansion and growth of the hospital and to survive the ravage of two devastating floods from the Chemung River," she said. "Now I am retired and live in a strong, loving community with my sisters at St. Ann's Home in Rochester."

Born in West Bloomfield, **Sister Kathryn Sullivan, SSJ**, (Sister Saint Catherine) earned a doctorate in higher education, psychology, and guidance from Catholic University in 1952 and went on to serve in the positions of dean of studies, vice president, and executive assistant to the president of Nazareth College of Rochester. She retired to the motherhouse in 1990 and remains active in Prayer Ministry.

"Sixty years ago when I entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, I had never known a sister, but religious life held promise of a way to grow in intimacy with God and to serve Him in whatever role His providence might determine," she said. "The intervening years have led through surprising paths and unpredictable circumstances. Yet the journey's rewards have far exceeded all expectations."



## This is Sister Ann Michelle.

### A new leader for St. Gabriel's.

The first person other than a priest to lead a parish in our diocese on a long-term basis, Sister Ann Michelle McGill, SSJ, is the new pastoral administrator of St. Gabriel's in Hammondsport. She believes her appointment widens the door of opportunity for the diocese to use the gifts of women religious and other lay people.



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Through TGA, Christ's ministry continues through people like Sister Ann Michelle.