

St. Joseph

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As I observed successful efforts of my beginning readers, I asked myself, 'What needs to happen in a child's mind if that child is to become a good reader.' Sister Frances and I sought answers to the question at many state and local presentations of the International Reading Association and through available research. I was sent to Boston University to do graduate study in reading. What I learned was channeled into the creation of a new Reading Methods course. The students were guided in applying this material in required on-campus, one-to-one tutoring sessions. Since 1968, approximately 500 local children have been involved in the tutoring program."

Sister Madeline Therese is now coordinator of volunteer services at the SSJ convent infirmary.

Sister Sheila Luber, SSJ, a Rochester native, noted, "Because I believe that a Christian value-based education is one of the most important ways by which the church fulfills its commitment to the person, I chose to remain in the Catholic-school ministry throughout my religious life. Whether as a teacher, counselor, or administrator, I am convinced that a purpose-filled, challenging, and deeply motivated education is the greatest gift one can share with one another — teacher to student, parent to child, system to participants. I will always be indebted to the many wonderful teachers, parents and students who have made up the warp and woof of my life. They have touched me deeply. I am especially grateful to our congregation, in which education on all levels is considered to be a priority and worthy of support."

Formerly principal at Sacred Heart Cathedral and St. Stanislaus schools in Rochester, Sister Sheila currently serves as a parish liaison to the ABC Headstart Program, and bingo coordinator for St. Stanislaus.

Sister Lily Ann McBride (Sister Matthew Marie), SSJ, a Rochester native, stated, "Challenging and happy are the best way I can describe my 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph. I am grateful to the Lord that I have been able to prepare countless meals at the motherhouse and Blessed Sacrament convent, provide transportation for the sisters at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary, and manage the motherhouse gift store, Cornerstone Crafts."

Sister Lily Ann continues in her ministry as an infirmary driver and manager of Cornerstone Crafts.

Sister Mary Brigid McCarthy, SSJ, an Elmira native, carries an education-ministry history which included elementary and middle-school teaching assignments in Rochester, Geneva and Elmira. She also served as principal of St. Theodore School in Rochester. "I am very grateful that being a Sister of St. Joseph has been my vocation," she said.

Sister Mary Brigid is currently a parish visitor-at St. Casimir's Church in Elmira and school aide at Elmira's Holy Family Primary School.

Religious Anniversaries

Sister Dorothy Mulcahy (Sr. Agnes James), SSJ, a Rochester native, spent 23 years in education ministry before attending St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing and becoming a registered nurse. She has served as a staff nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira as well as instructor and assistant coordinator of nursing at the St. Joseph's nursing school. Sister Dorothy is currently pastoral associate at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmira.

Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ, a Geneva native, said, "I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of having been a Sister of St. Joseph these past 50 years, realizing that it is a gift from God, a particular grace. I cherish a multitude of beautiful memories that call forth feelings of joy, wonder and appreciation. This is truly a time to give thanks. Children have touched my life in a significant way and I deeply treasure the major part they have played in my religious life. It is absolutely true that 'by our pupils we are taught.' From them I have learned to be open and honest, to value truth and sincerity, and to hope even when there is no reason to hope. As I continue to thank God during this special year of jubilee, I would like to focus upon my present place of ministry. Blessed Trinity School in Auburn has been a singular blessing as the past 22 years of my life have unfolded there in the educational arena. The children, parents, teachers and other school personnel, as well as the citizens of Auburn, have brought great meaning and fulfillment to my life as woman, religious and educator. It is to our triune God that I shall forever give thanks."

Sister Walter Anne is currently administrator of Cayuga County Catholic Schools, at the Blessed Trinity School campus in Auburn.

Sister Dorothy Therese Schropp, SSJ, a Rochester native, remarks, "Why was the religious life the right choice for me? It was the right choice because I had always had a strong attraction to it as a little girl, and growing up. The experiences, joys and works previous to this choice, though great, never fully satisfied me. The friendliness, example and teachings of our parish and high-school sisters and priests drew me to seek more deeply into their way of life and with the guidance of my dear parents and friends, I made the choice and have been grateful for the many blessings that have been mine ever since." Sister Dorothy's education ministry has taken her to positions in Rochester, Oswego, Elmira, Wayland and Mt. Morris.

She is now a teacher's aide in preschool at St. Ambrose School in Rochester.

Sister Jeanne Smith (Sr. Jeanne Louise), SSJ, a Rochester native, said, "In 1948, I began nine wonderful years as house mother at St. Bernard's Cottage at St. Joseph's Villa. I had 24 boys ranging in age from 5 to 16. I was their mother, confidante, disciplinarian and their friend. I remember with great fondness this period of my ministry. To this day I still hear from many of these boys. My present mission at Sacred Heart Cathedral stands out in my mind because of my involvement in various facets of parish life. Through my activities as funeral greeter, daily Mass lector, eucharistic minister, bingo worker and ceramic teacher, I am so impressed with the dedication of the parish priests and devotion of the people to the church. Why was religious life the right choice for me? I cannot imagine any other way of being so satisfying and fulfilling for me. I have never regretted my decision to enter religious life."

Sister Elaine Hollis, SSJ, a Rochester native, comments, "In remembering and celebrating my 25 years as a Sister of St. Joseph, I am grateful for the way peoples' lives have touched mine and I have touched theirs as I traveled on my journey from St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls to the Monroe Developmental Center. That journey has also taken me to St. Thomas More, St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, St. Agnes High School, Brazil and Strong (Memorial) Hospital. Wherever I have ministered, whether as teacher, pastoral agent or chaplain, I have been blessed by the warm welcome of those who also ministered to me as our journeys intersected. The faithfulness of the people in Cacu, despite the difficulties they face; the enthusiasm of the community of Tocantins as they build their church; the caring and compassion of the staff at Monroe Developmental Center, and Strong for those with whom they work — these have touched and encouraged me as I sought, and continue to seek, to be able to use my gifts to minister among the people of God."

Sister Elaine currently serves as chaplain at Monroe Developmental Center and Strong Memorial Hospital.



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