

Continued from previous page

1938, I went to Holy Rosary Convent and school to teach one of the first-grade classes," she recalled. "Sister Francis Joseph Schwalb was my partner and a noted first-grade teacher. On Sunday afternoons, after prayers, we went to school and planned our weekly subjects and projects. She was an excellent teacher and always had time to listen to my comments. I loved my pupils and liked my work; the days passed all too quickly."



Sister Rosina now resides at the order's infirmary and participates in prayer ministry.

**Sister Marie Tydings, SSJ (Sister Mary Michael)**, is a Rochester native who began her teaching career at Immaculate Conception School, and held teaching and administrative positions in Geneva, Dansville, Greece and Brockport. She served as treasurer general for the congregation from 1987-92.



"These 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph have been very rewarding and fulfilling years for me," Sister Marie commented. "My family, the sisters I have known and lived with, the priests, and lay people who were supportive of me in my ministries as teacher, administrator, and reach out to our sisters in the infirmary have given me many happy memories."

Sister Marie is now a recreation coordinator and visitor for the order's infirmary.

**Sister Paul Margaret Wolter, SSJ**, is a native of Rochester. Her teaching career began at Nazareth Hall and included positions in 10 different schools, including teaching posts in Auburn and Waverly.



"How the love of God has surrounded me with the role models I have, the motherly, sisterly members of the congregation who have loved, accepted and encouraged me," Sister Paul Margaret said. "They, the cheerful givers, I, the receiver. I am indebted to them forever."

Sister Paul Margaret added, "These are two of God's great gifts to me: the privilege to be with children in school; the teaching, especially of religion, reading and dramatics to children from first through sixth grades. In this ministry, I hope there was a preferential option for the poor."

## 50 years

**Sister Marie Albert Alderman, SSJ**, is a native of Syracuse.



"It has been a joy teaching for 20 years in both the Rochester and Alabama diocese," Sister Marie Albert said. "I enjoyed the children's innocence and humor. My 15 years as pastoral assistant at St. Mary's in Canandaigua (1973-88) were grace-filled years for me. The

people were very supportive, both with their prayers and giving their time, talents, and treasures. They made good things happen in their parish."

Sister Marie Albert is also grateful for the recent years she spent in Florida (1988-1992), marking the beginning of the Florida chapter of the Sisters of St. Joseph Agrege, noting, "Again, these people were a very supportive community and an inspiration to me."

Commenting further on her vocation, Sister Marie Albert said, "Why was the religious life right choice for me? I entered the SSJ community because that is where the Lord was leading me. I want to thank my SSJ community and Agregees for being supportive all these years."

A native of Chicago, **Sister Mary Dorothy Burnett, SSJ**, observed, "Although I was born in Chicago, I consider myself a Rochester native. My parents' roots are here. I have lived here since I was 2 years old and I was educated by the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Rochester diocesan schools. The road of religious life has introduced me to young people in the primary grades as well as in junior high school. I have met them in schools in Rochester, Brockport, Elmira, Auburn and Webster. It is with a heart full of gratitude that I now celebrate 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph. The years hold a wealth of memories, particularly of my ministries as teacher, administrator, and now as a receptionist at St. Ann's Home."



**Sister Mary Ellen Cragan, SSJ (Sister William Margaret)**, is a native of Cornish.



Of her years of service, Sister Mary Ellen observed, "Thirty-seven years spent in the education of children and 10 years in service as parish pastoral associate have provided two facets of the call to ministry in the church. While I believe there can be no work more important than the education of succeeding generations, I am similarly convinced that working with the senior population in our parishes speaks to an equally compelling need."

When asked about her choice to follow a religious vocation, Sister Mary Ellen replied, "The choice of religious life is right for me because it is rooted in the person of Jesus Christ; maintains a communal commitment to His mission; and offers the opportunity to give concrete witness to the Gospel."

Sister Mary Ellen works in congregational service as one of the motherhouse's receptionists.

During her education career, Auburn-native **Sister Raymond Mary Davis, SSJ**, held positions in Rochester, Ithaca, and Auburn.



"As a teacher and principal, I had the pleasure of teaching stu-

dents who were children of my own high-school classmates," Sister Raymond Mary said. "When I was missioned to Ithaca for the second time in 1971, I was thrilled to find my favorite eighth-grade students were now the parents, committee members, and church volunteers. It was wonderful to see them so involved in family, church, and school."

In reflecting on her religious vocation, Sister Raymond Mary said, "In my childhood years, I dreamed of teaching school children about God. As the years went by I found one can bring His message of love and mercy to people of all ages and circumstances. It is a privilege to have Him touch their lives through my vocation."

Sister Raymond Mary currently serves as administrative assistant at St. Frances De-Sales/St. Stephen's School in Geneva.

**Sister Anne Mary Dooley, SSJ**, is a native of Niagara Falls, N.Y.



"Reflection on 50 years of mission and ministry bring to my mind scores of wonderful people with whom I have been privileged to interact," Sister Anne Mary said. "I am reminded of the sacred places of my ministry: Blessed Sacrament; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Mary's, Auburn; Nazareth Academy; the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse; St. Bernard's Seminary; and Niagara University."

"For the past 19 years," Sister Anne Mary continued, "I have been teaching courses in psychology of religion, women studies, and introduction to religion in the religious education department at Niagara University, a liberal arts university in the Vincentian tradition. This is a ministry that I enjoy thoroughly because it harmonizes so well with my mission in life. The students are a joy to teach — we learn together."

Sister Anne Mary added, "I am grateful to God, the Sisters of St. Joseph, my family, friends, and all with whom I have collaborated over these past 50 years for their faithful, loving support, prayer and challenge to foster justice and peace in society and the church."

An Auburn native, **Sister Paul Marie Dougherty, SSJ**, is a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Nursing and has served as a nurse and supervisor at Good Samaritan Hospital, Selma, Alabama; St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira; St. Joseph Villa; and in the infirmary at St. Ann's Home. She has held private duty nursing assignments throughout Rochester's hospitals as well as hospice work in private homes. She also served as president of Rochester Nurses Registry, Inc. for two years.



One memory that Sister Paul Marie holds particularly dear is of a patient who was facing amputation. Sister Paul Marie was greatly impressed by the deep faith her patient demonstrated in the face of her surgery.

Sister Paul Marie now resides at the order's infirmary and provides Braille transcription service to the blind.

**Sister Catherine Foes, SSJ (Sister Barbara Ann)**, is a native of Rochester. Formerly chairwoman of the math department at Nazareth College, Sister Catherine also served as a member of the congregation's Central Administration as assistant to the superior general. In 1980, Sister Catherine was sent to Brazil. She is currently serving in pastoral ministry in four small communities of the parish, Sao Judas Tadeu in Bairro Roosevelt, Uberlandia.



When asked about her vocation, Sister Catherine replied, "I have often said that the reasons I entered religious life were not the same as the reasons I stayed after we experienced the effects of Vatican II, which came about half way through these amazing 50 years. But I learned a lot in each of my varied ministries and was impressed by many people that I met in each of them. And I plan to continue to learn more as I continue to try to serve the People of God, *se Deus quiser*."

**Sister Grace Noel Gleichauf, SSJ**, is a native of Rochester.



"I have had three main ministries," Sister Grace Noel noted, "including teaching in five different schools in Rochester and Geneva for 30 years, being a child care worker and working in purchasing at St. Joseph's Villa for 13 years, and having the privilege of being at the Prayer Center as a staff member for the past three years. All three ministries have been rewarding and most enriching for me. My ministry at the Prayer Center, where I did domestic work and was able to serve sisters and people, remains a highlight in my vocation. There, too, I had the privilege of being a Eucharistic Minister at Highland Hospital and visiting the sick, three days a week."

Reflecting upon her religious vocation, Sister Grace recalled, "Religious life has been a lifelong desire. My parents, family and first-grade teacher, Sister Ignatia Doyle SSJ, were an inspiration for me."

Sister Grace Noel currently teaches first through fourth grade at Ithaca's Immaculate Conception School.

Rochester-native **Sister Mary Sharon Heilman, SSJ**, remarked, "I am grateful for the privilege of being a Sister of St. Joseph.



As I celebrate these 50 years in religious life, I recall my relationship with our Lord and His graces that have fortified me in the journey of life and in the service of others.

"The first 28 years were spent in education in middle-grade assignments and serving as principal of St. Stephen's, Geneva, St. Stanislaus, Rochester, and

Mother of Sorrows," Sister Mary Sharon continued. "I treasure the part the children and their families have played in my religious life."

"Fulfilling a lifelong desire," Sister Mary Sharon added, "I attended Isabella Graham Hart School of Practical Nursing. My nursing ministry was at our Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary and at Park Ridge Nursing Home, as a staff nurse for 10 years where serving the sick and elderly was reward in itself."

Sister Mary Sharon currently works part time as a licensed practical nurse companion with Sisters Care, a community project, and as a receptionist at Sacred Heart rectory.



**Sister Beverly Jones, SSJ (Sister Agnes Louise)**, is a native of Albany.

"As our 50th jubilee comes around," Sister Beverly remarked, "I am thinking so gratefully of the blessings of my past life — growing up in the best of small towns, in a wonderful family, and after high school, going to the 'big city' of Rochester to attend Nazareth College. Here after several happy years, I found my religious vocation and entered the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. For my first mission I was sent to teach instrumental music at Nazareth Academy, where I have been privileged to work all these years with dedicated faculty, staff, and wonderful students. Every year has been a new beginning with new opportunities, challenges, joys, and blessings. Very special among God's blessings have been the sisters, and other friends and associates who have inspired, encouraged, and walked with me along the way."

Sister Beverly continues her work teaching instrumental music at Nazareth Academy.

Rochester-native **Sister Mary Maloy, SSJ (Sister Anne Joseph)**, recalled, "My first ministry was as a teacher and counselor at Nazareth Academy and St. Agnes High School. These happy years brought me close to so many beautiful young women during their formative years. I remember those relationships with much joy."



"Since 1982, I have worked in our Southern mission in Alabama," Sister Mary continued. "Here as the outreach worker at a rural health clinic, I meet God's poor and suffering people everyday. The help and encouragement I am able to give to these poor people seems so small when I consider the inspiration and spiritual impact they have had on my life. This is a special ministry and I feel blessed and privileged to be here."

When asked about her religious vocation, Sister Mary replied, "Religious life has enabled me to serve God through His people. It has challenged me to seek and serve the Lord daily through my prayer, community life and ministry. I have been very happy throughout the past 50 years as a Sister of St.

Continued on page 8