

Milestones

Sisters of St. Joseph honor diverse service

This year, 33 Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester celebrate their anniversary jubilees, marking 70, 60, 50 or 25 years within the order.

The order will honor this year's jubilarians Saturday, Oct. 19, at the motherhouse, 4095 East Ave.

70 years

Sister Rose Frisk, SSJ (formerly Sister Rose Adelaide) entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1924.

"My earliest memories of the nuns at St. Mary's in Elmira are still vivid to this day," Sister Rose said of her childhood. "They were the women of prayer. They were excellent teachers, and they were kind and compassionate."

The Nazareth Academy graduate accepted her first teaching assignment at St. John the Evangelist School in Spencerport in 1927. She went on to teach in schools throughout the area including St. Ambrose, Immaculate Conception, and Nazareth Academy. She also earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry and general science from Nazareth College. She also earned a master's degree in chemistry from St. Louis University.

Sister Rose retired from teaching in 1982, at which time she became the Academy's library assistant. Since 1989, she has served in convent services and prayer ministry.

Sister Rose Eileen Leary, SSJ, expressed great joy when looking back on her religious life.

"It gave me the tremendous opportunity by word and deed to show the great love, care and compassion of Jesus to those I taught and to those I encountered," she said.

Sister Rose Eileen grew up in Waverly, then attended Nazareth Academy. After receiving her certification in teaching from Nazareth Normal School, she taught at Corpus Christi School, Nazareth Academy Grammar School and Nazareth Academy, all in Rochester.

After serving in these schools for 10 years, Sister Rose Eileen earned a bachelor's degree in history and English from Nazareth College and a master's degree in education from Notre Dame University. She then returned to teaching at Nazareth Academy. She eventually joined the faculty at DeSales High School in Geneva where she served for 18 years, first as a teacher then as a vice principal.

A core community member at Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Center, Sister Rose Eileen went on to serve as a parish visitor at St. Mary Our Mother Parish in Horseheads and later as receptionist at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

Since 1986, she has focused on pastoral ministry.

"It's been my life," Sister Annunciata McCabe, SSJ, said of education. "I started out in teaching,

then moved into administration. I worked very hard, because I knew I was working for the children."

Sister Annunciata devoted most of her 70-year commitment to education. After graduating from Nazareth College in 1927, she joined the staff of Nazareth Academy as a teacher of Italian. She spent the next 43 years at the school.

Sister Annunciata also earned a bachelor's degree in Latin and French from Canisius College and a master's degree in French from Montreal University.

She devoted 22 years to teaching Italian and French, before she decided to move into administration. Her administrative posts included serving as directress of studies, vice principal and principal.

Sister Annunciata eventually became special assistant to the vice president of planning and development at Nazareth College. She remained at the school for 16 years before retiring in 1989.

Sister Mary Carmel Uschold, SSJ, was born in Rochester in 1908.

The Nazareth Academy graduate began her teaching career in 1927 at St. Agnes School in Avon. For the next 51 years, Sister Mary Carmel taught children at such schools as Holy Rosary, Corpus Christi, St. Francis Xavier, Holy Apostles, St. Thomas More, and Our Lady of Victory. She also taught at St. Paul's School, Oswego; St. Agnes School, Avon; St. Ambrose School, Rochester; St. Joseph's School, Wayland; St. Peter and Paul School, Elmira; and St. Mary's School, Canandaigua.

Sister Mary Carmel shared with her students an enthusiasm for sports, and with similar enthusiasm worked hard to build their love for learning.

"In all my pupils, I found great satisfaction in watching their unfolding intellectual growth and development of social graces," she said.

After retiring in 1978, Sister Mary Carmel continued to serve on the financial staff for the Congregational Health Fund. And since 1987, she has worked as a librarian at the Religious Life Resource Center.

Sister Margaret Cecilia Wood, SSJ, spent most of her career teaching music, and no wonder — her music lessons began in

the second grade and continued through high school.

The Rochester native entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1924. Her first teaching assignment was at St. Augustine's School in Rochester. Soon she became the music teacher at the Nazareth Conservatory.

Eventually, Sister Margaret Cecilia also became the music teacher at Nazareth College. She also studied piano at Marywood College and music composition at DePaul University. She later received a master's degree in music at DePaul in 1944.

After receiving her master's degree, Sister Margaret Cecilia resumed teaching music at Nazareth College, Immaculate Conception School in Rochester and St. Mary's School in Elmira. In addition, she taught every summer in the teacher training division of the Nazareth College music department.

Retiring in 1981, Sister Margaret Cecilia continued to work at the motherhouse as a staff member in the Religious Life Resource Center. For the past few years, she has served in prayer ministry.

"The attraction of the religious life began for me in early childhood and has never ceased," Sister Margaret Cecilia said. "Life in the congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph has been very fulfilling, and a source of true happiness."

60 years

According to **Sister Mary Elizabeth Borgyon, SSJ**, one of the greatest joys of her career has been working with children.

"Little ones are so happy and eager to learn," the Rochester native said. "And working with students who had reading disabilities was also very rewarding. One sensed the joy when a disability was overcome."

Sister Mary Elizabeth devoted most of her career to education. After receiving her certification from Nazareth Normal School in 1938, she began teaching at the St. Patrick School in Corning. Through the years, she also taught at St. Ambrose, St. Augustine, St. John's and St. Anne's schools in Rochester, Nazareth Hall Cadet School, and St. Stephen's School in Geneva.

Sister Mary Elizabeth earned a

bachelor's degree in education and a master of science degree in elementary education from Nazareth College.

The Nazareth Academy graduate eventually became the principal of St. Thomas More School. She served in that position for three years, after which she returned to teaching at St. Pius X and St. Ambrose schools.

From 1989 to 1993, Sister Mary Elizabeth worked in the staff/alumnae office at Nazareth Academy. Since 1993, she has been the secretarial assistant at Trinity Montessori School.

For **Sister Ambrosine Casey, SSJ**, this year is doubly special.

She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1935, and her brother, Tom, entered the Society of Jesus in 1957.

"That gives us a combined 100 years in religious life," Sister Ambrosine said happily. "So 1996 is special for my brother and me."

Sister Ambrosine dedicated her career to education. Teaching led her to Holy Rosary School, followed by St. Francis Xavier, St. Patrick, St. Paul, St. Joseph's, St. Augustine's, St. Stanislaus, and Sacred Heart Cathedral schools. Thirty years later, she moved from the classroom into administration. Sister Ambrosine spent the next 14 years working as superior/principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Holy Apostles, and St. John the Evangelist schools.

During her career, she also earned a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College.

In 1983, she went to St. Anthony of Padua Rectory where she provided secretarial services. For the past five years, the Rochester native has been a caretaker at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

She also has acted as a certified advocate for residents in Rochester's Arbor Hill Living Center.

For **Sister Evelyn Connolly, SSJ**, teaching high school was especially meaningful.

"With 58 Sisters at Nazareth Academy and St. Agnes High School, I learned so much," she said. "It gave me a basic understanding of community living. All the women were skilled teachers who shared their knowledge with younger sisters. Everyone was assigned to different areas, yet each job was valu-

able."

Born in Dansville, Sister Evelyn graduated from Dansville High School in 1933. Soon after graduation, she moved to Rochester where she studied at Nazareth College.

Her first assignment was as an English, drama, and speech teacher at Nazareth Academy. She spent 14 years at the school before being assigned to St. Agnes High School. She remained at St. Agnes for the next 14 years, serving two years as the head of the English department.

In 1965 Sister Evelyn went to Cincinnati to study hospital administration at Xavier University. She then became administrator for the Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma, Ala.

She eventually worked in development at Highland Hospital in Rochester and as an administrative assistant at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. From 1975 to 1986 she was director of the education department at St. Joseph's. Then she returned to the motherhouse to become the director of sales at area malls as part of the Cornerstone Crafts show.

The East Avenue resident now concentrates on prayer ministry.

A Toronto native, **Sister Jane Joseph DeShayes, SSJ**, moved to Rochester with her family at an early age. She graduated from East Rochester High School in 1935, and then earned her certification from Nazareth Normal School.

Sister Jane Joseph dedicated her religious life to education. For 17 years, she taught at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Patrick, St. Ambrose and St. Monica's schools.

In 1956, she became the superior/principal at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. Six years later, Sister Jane Joseph returned to teaching at Our Lady of Good Counsel School in Rochester, Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn, and St. Agnes High School.

"It has been a most rewarding experience over the years to watch so many young people whom I have known grow into mature adults," Sister Jane Joseph said. "It is also rewarding to see them becoming active and participating members in the church and society."

The East Avenue resident eventually became schedule coordinator at St. Agnes. She later served as an administrative assistant at Nazareth Academy and secretary at Our Lady Queen of

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