

Milestones

Continued from previous page

music.

"I loved being able to give students guidance, and sharing their joys and sorrows," she offered. "Every hour was different, because every human is different. That's one of the blessings of life, and I was excited for every single (lesson)."

One of her greatest rewards was working with an autistic child. "The maxim of Suzuki says that every child can be educated," Sister Helen Anne said. "Well, we had wonderful lessons. The child just beamed when he played. He went on to play in a group session and a spring concert."

Sister Helen Anne, a graduate of Nazareth College, has become well-known as a music instructor. She has traveled around the country offering Suzuki workshops.

"I couldn't think of anything else," Sister Helen Anne said of religious life. "It was the right life for me. I always knew."

Sister Teresa Auberger, SSJ



(formerly Sister Teresa Martin) has served as the display coordinator for Cornerstone Crafts, the motherhouse store during the past five years. Prior to this position, she worked as the payroll officer for the congregation, a teacher and a principal.

In 1940, she joined the staff of Our Lady of Victory, Rochester, where she taught elementary school students. She went on to teach at the schools of St. Augustine's, Rochester, and St. Patrick's, Dansville. St. Anthony in Elmira hired Sister Teresa in 1959 as a principal and teacher.

The Nazareth College graduate eventually accepted a job as the treasurer. Seven years ago, she began working at Cornerstone Crafts.

50 years

Sister Joan Vincent Giaconia, SSJ, will never forget her first teaching assignment after completing her novitiate training and undergraduate studies.



"I was assigned to St. Rose in Lima, where to my surprise I had not ONE but THREE children in one classroom," she recalled.

The experience did not discourage Sister Joan Vincent. She continued to teach elementary school students for the next 34 years. After serving at St. Rose, Sister Joan Vincent went on to teach at the schools of St. Augustine and Sacred Heart, both in Holy Rosary, Rochester, and Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

While teaching, Sister Joan Vincent also accepted the role of scientist. She earned a bachelor of science in education from Nazareth College, then 19 years later, she received a bachelor's degree in English.

Currently, she assists with the tutorial program and clerical duties at Sacred Heart Cathedral School. She also serves as a sac-

rist at the cathedral.

Sister Anne Martin Morris, SSJ said her decision to become a



Sister of St. Joseph came like a bolt out of the blue.

"It just came to me," she said. "I never gave it a previous

thought."

Fifty years later, she is still content with her life choice.

"I can't believe it has been 50 years already," she admitted. "My life has been so rewarding."

Sister Anne Martin spent two decades teaching at the schools of St. Augustine's, Rochester, St. Patrick's, Corning, St. Stanislaus, Immaculate Conception, St. Anthony of Padua and Sacred Heart, all in Rochester; and St. Stephen's, Geneva.

"I mostly taught primary grades," Sister Anne Martin explained. "It was a great job because I was able to see them grow and mature. The children were always so receptive."

In 1962, Sister Anne Martin joined the staff of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. Two years later, she resumed her teaching career as a classroom assistant at the schools of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, Most Precious Blood, Greece, and St. John the Evangelist, Rochester.

The Nazareth College graduate returned to the infirmary staff in 1972, and later worked at the motherhouse. She currently works in secretarial services for the Sisters of St. Joseph archives.

Many sisters rely on **Sister Genevieve Turner, SSJ**, every day.

Since 1967 she has served as a staff driver for the motherhouse.

"I'm very happy doing the work I'm doing," Sister Genevieve said. "If the

Lord wants me, I'm all for it. I'd be this happy to continue, and I'd be this me, I'm all for it. This is a joy to me. I enjoy making the sisters happy and being able to take care of their transportation needs."

Prior to this ministry, Sister Genevieve taught at various schools including St. Mary's, Elmira, St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester, and St. Patrick's, Mount Morris.

In 1967, she began the "innocent transition" into the transportation ministry, she recalled. It was summer recess, and Sister Genevieve offered to drive sisters to various appointments. She enjoyed the work, so the superior general asked her to remain in the job for a full year to give the ministry a try.

"It's been 30 years now," Sister Genevieve said. "I loved teaching. I enjoyed all my ministries. But I felt there was a big need (in transportation), and no one could really do it full-time. I feel the Lord put me into the position. I also believe I'm doing the Lord's work and that is priority one."

Sister Genevieve now serves as the congregation's transportation coordinator and driver.

Sister Clare Francis Mogenhan, SSJ, is seen as a true leader in education.

Since 1989 she has served as



the administrator to Trinity Montessori School, East Rochester. Prior to this position, she was the principal at Immaculate Conception in Ithaca, Elmira Regional Junior High School, and at St. Monica's and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, both in Rochester.

"Every ministry has brought God to me in very special ways," Sister Clare Francis said. "He has revealed himself in the people I have had the privilege to serve both in the Southern Tier and in the Rochester area."

"My Ithaca ministry will always be very special to me because my parents went to Glory while I was there and the strong and compassionate hearts of those people will always be with me," she said.

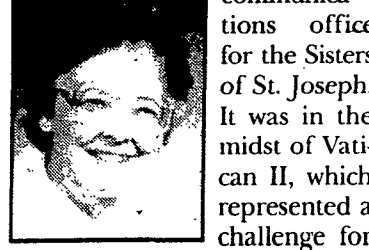
Sister Clare Francis has earned a bachelor's degree in history and library science from Nazareth College and a master's in education administration from Cortland State University.

She resides in the Nazareth Academy Convent.

"When your love affair with God starts at a very early age and never wanes, you know that you have followed the right path in life," Sister Clare Francis said of religious life.

"It has been a glorious 50 years and God has been faithful to His promise of Infinite Love in return," she said.

In 1964, **Sister Mary John Van Atta, SSJ**, helped to establish the



communications office for the Sisters of St. Joseph. It was in the midst of Vatican II, which represented a challenge for

Sister Mary John.

"All of (the ministries) have been rewarding in different ways," she said. "Perhaps the one with the most long-lasting effect was starting the SSJ Communications Office. The office created and tried to satisfy expectations within the congregation for consistent, open information sharing, which continues to this day."

Sister Mary John's first ministry assignment was in teaching. Fifteen years later, she established the SSJ communications office. She led this office until 1975, when she became pastoral assistant at Immaculate Conception, Rochester.

The Rochester native later joined the staff of the University of Rochester School of Nursing, where she worked as a part-time research assistant for eight years. Sister Mary John eventually became a process consultant for various congregations and in the SSJ Resource Center. From 1991 to 1995, she served as a councilor in the Sisters of St. Joseph Central Administration. Upon completing this term, Sister Mary John returned to process consultation and computer research.

When asked about the changes in religious life through the years, Sister Mary John said: "The increased breadth and depth of spiritual understandings available to us, made possible by the new spiritus in Vatican II (has been a change). These same understandings would have been avail-

able if I were not in the congregation, but here they are so easily accessible, so eagerly received, and so thoroughly discussed and used that they have greatly changed my life."

Sister Eileen Broad, SSJ, (formerly Sister St. Andrew) of Buffalo has spent the last two years volunteering at Monroe Community Hospital and the



Monroe County Jail. Prior to this ministry, she was a music teacher at Holy Childhood and Corpus Christi schools in Rochester. She also served for six years as chaplain at the Monroe Developmental Center and Monroe Community Hospital.

For 35 years, Sister Eileen taught at the schools of Blessed Sacrament, Rochester, Nativity, Brockport, Nazareth Academy, Rochester, and De Sales High School in Geneva. She also filled the position of superior and principal at DeSales.

Sister Eileen earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1957 from Nazareth College. She later received a master's degree.

She currently resides at the SSJ motherhouse.

According to **Sister Josepha Kennedy, SSJ**, (formerly Sister



Rose Alice), the most significant change since becoming a Sister of St. Joseph has been the freedom.

"The freedom to reach out to people neighbor to neighbor, is what we are all about God's work; the turning outward to the community and the world."

Sister Josepha has had a great deal of experience reaching out to the community. She taught music to elementary school students for 10 years at Holy Rosary and St. Monica, both in Rochester; St. Aloysius, Auburn, St. Mary's, Waterloo, and St. Theodore's, Gates, before joining the staff of Nazareth College as a music professor in 1960.

She has remained at Nazareth through the years, except for a four-year hiatus when she earned a doctorate in music from Columbia University. Prior to that, Sister Josepha received a bachelor's in voice and piano and a master's in music education - both from Nazareth.

The Elmira native currently teaches music history at the college.

"The experiences of large and small convents, city and rural schools have greatly enriched my life," Sister Josepha said. "The years since, at Nazareth College, have been intellectually rewarding and really joyful sharing the love of music with so many young adults."

Sister Ann de Porres Amesbury, SSJ, said of her jubilee, "I



am grateful for the heritage that is mine as a Sister of St. Joseph of Rochester. (I am grateful) for the gifts of friends, education, opportunity

and ministry; for the challenges, encouragement and support that exists among us empowering us to grow as Church, as religious and as persons."

Sister Ann de Porres entered the order in 1946. She spent the next 25 years teaching at St. Anne and Holy Trinity schools in Rochester, and St. Agnes High School, Rochester. In addition to teaching religion and English at St. Agnes, she also served as the school's scheduling coordinator and chairwoman of the English department.

In 1976, she became the theology resource person at St. Thomas More Parish, Rochester. The Fairport resident went on to work in prayer/spiritual direction at the Emmaus House of Prayer and the SSJ Spirituality Center. She remained in that ministry until 1986, when she assumed the position of regional program director for the SSJ Spirituality Centers in Syracuse, Buffalo and Batavia and Albany as well as the motherhouse in Pittsford.

Sister Mary Christopher Kuchman, SSJ, has most of her career to nursing, working as a supervisor, instructor and health coordinator. She spent most of



her time at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, where she worked as a nurse supervisor, instructor and coordinator.

For six years, she lived in Alabama serving as director of the School of Nursing at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma. In 1973, she accepted the position of community health coordinator at St. Joseph's Hospital. She later became the hospital's discharge planning coordinator.

A graduate of Nazareth College, Sister Mary Christopher now works in the Seneca County personnel Department in Waterloo as the Community Health Nurse and Early Intervention coordinator.

"The many missions I have responded to in my 50 years of religious life have brought the smiles of fifth- and sixth-graders at St. Michael's School in Penn Yan; the cries of burnt children of Selma's Good Samaritan Hospital Pediatrics; and the courage of the developmentally disabled of Seneca County," she said.

"In God's grand plan for us I believe that he has us meet people whom he wants us to meet," Sister Mary Christopher continued. "We are so fortunate to be inspired by their lives and inspired by their example."

Continued on page 11A

Congratulations to

Sr. Angela Sutula, S.S.J.
on 70 years of Religious Life;
to the
S.S.N.D. Community
on 150 years of witness and service,
and to

Sr. Marie Clare Stoe,
Pastoral Associate
at St. Patrick's & Holy Angels,
who makes present to the
Catholic Community of
Mt. Morris and Nunda
the S.S.N.D. spirit of
zeal and generosity.