

FEATURE

Natural world moves SSJ to create delicate pictures

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — Whether sitting under a pine tree or gazing over a pond, Sister Elizabeth Burkhart, SSJ, said she never fails to find spiritual sustenance by recording her impressions of the natural world in pen and ink.

"You lose all track of time if you really get into something," she said. "I find it very quieting, and there is something there you can't always put your finger on, but it's a wonderful place to be."

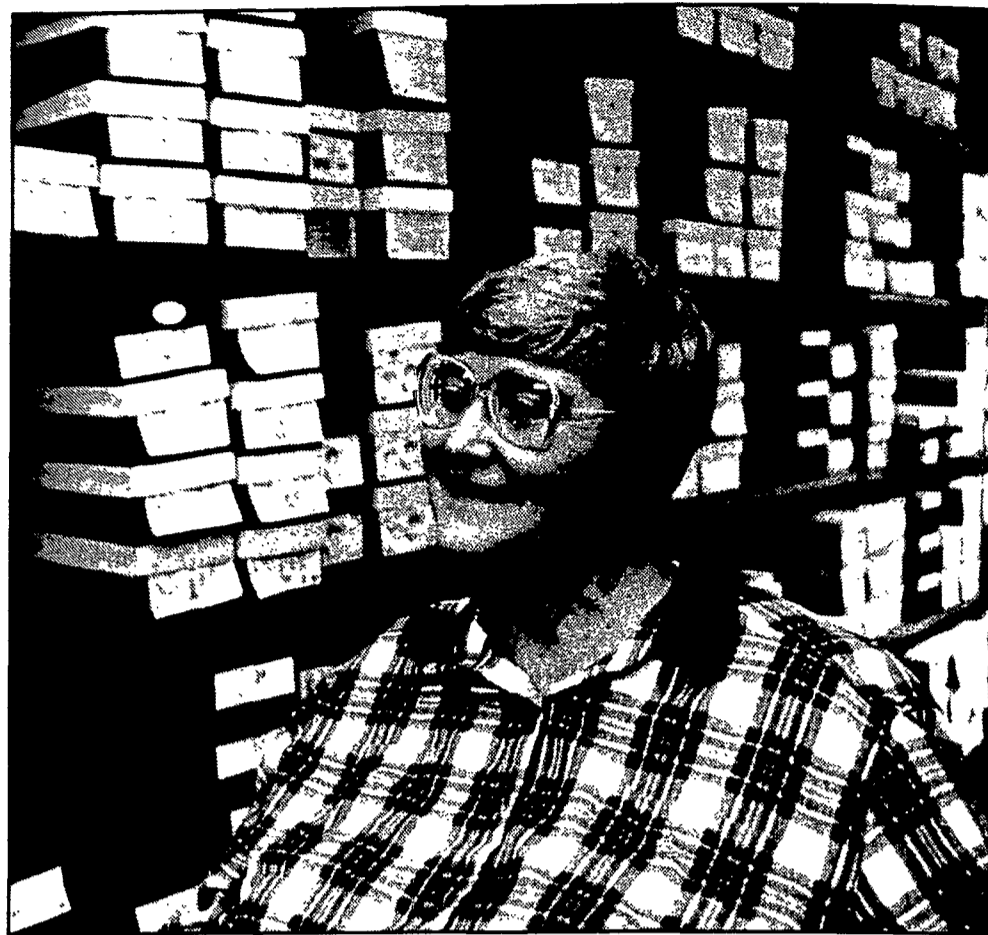
Sister Burkhart is an artist whose delicate, airy nature-based work adorns greeting cards and prayer cards throughout Cornerstone Crafts, a store located in the basement of the motherhouse of the Sis-

ters of St. Joseph of Rochester, 4095 East Ave. The store also sells journals with her designs.

"She's a big seller," said Sister Theresa Collins, SSJ, who works at the store. "People like these cards. They want something that's original and designed by our sisters."

Along with books and cards designed by other members of her order, Sister Burkhart's work occupies a number of display areas at Cornerstone Crafts. Proceeds from the sales go to the congregation, Sister Burkhart said. This year, the SSJs put out a catalog of her work that's been circulated to 500 retreat houses and religious congregations nationwide, she added, and a mail-order business is growing.

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Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Sister Elizabeth Burkhart at Sisters of St. Joseph's motherhouse among boxes of her greeting cards Dec 5. Orders for the cards come in from across the country.

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