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vent," Sister Dorothy Agnes said. "My years of study and of teaching were richly blessed. I was privileged to be a member of a wonderful faculty of sisters, priests and lay people."

Sister Dorothy Agnes retired in 1991 to focus on prayer ministry. At this special jubilee milestone, she expressed a sense of great happiness and peace.

"I am filled with gratitude to God for all the graces of my life, for my baptism and religious vocation, for my loving parents, my sister and brother and their families, for all my sister family, for dear friends," she said. "All has been grace."

According to her longtime friend, Sister Francis Cecilia English, religious life was the right choice for **Sister Marion Patricia Costello, SSJ.**



"She has always been a happy and apostolic sister whose unwavering dedication to God has been an inspiration to those around her," Sister Francis Cecilia said. "Her wit and humor as well as her kindness also made her popular among the other sisters and students."

Born in 1909, Sister Marion Patricia grew up in Rochester and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph following her high school graduation in 1927. Sister Marion Patricia began her teaching career in 1929, serving at Holy Rosary School, St. Mary in Canandaigua, St. Paul in Oswego, DeSales High School, Elmira Catholic High School, St. Agnes High School, Mt. Carmel High School and Nazareth Hall. She also earned a bachelor's degree in social studies and English from Nazareth College and a master's degree in French from Laval University in Quebec.

She retired from teaching in 1977, and joined the motherhouse staff as a receptionist. She later worked for the congregation's treasurer. Sister Marion Patricia now lives at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary and concentrates on her prayer ministry.

60 years

Sister Helen Baker, SSJ, (formerly Sister Maria Gratia) spent more than 40 years contributing to the good health of students, faculty and guests at Nazareth Academy.



"My ministry was meaningful to me in that I was able as the director of good nutrition to contribute to the welfare of future generations," Sister Helen said. "I always tried to make sure the students had a balanced lunch with fruits and vegetables, and they didn't seem to mind."

Sister Helen started out her religious life as a fourth-grade teacher at Nazareth Academy. After only two years in teaching, she

made the transition to cafeteria manager. She served in that position from 1941 to 1982.

Although Sister Helen is now retired, former students still remember her.

"I'll be at a banquet and a former student will come up to me and comment about certain foods we made that they especially liked," she smiled. "That's always nice."

In addition to promoting good health, the Geneva native has also tried to contribute to the spiritual welfare of future generations, bringing people closer to God and each other.

"Religious life has been the right choice for me," she said. "It has helped me follow my goal, which was pointed out to me many years ago on the day of my reception into the community. The homily ended with the quotation from Scripture, 'And they saw only Jesus.' That has remained my focus."

Sister Helen admits, though, that there have been challenges.

"Changes in life are always challenging," she said. "Vatican II's commission for us was to make known to the world our original charism, the love of God for neighbor and neighbor with neighbor."

Today, Sister Helen works and lives in the Nazareth Academy Convent, serving in the convent's household services.

"I loved them dearly," **Sister Marie Dominic Bennett, SSJ,** said of her students.



"Their innocent remarks and thoughtful acts have had an impact on my own spiritual life over the years. Often, to this very day, they have been the subject for my evening's meditation."

"I picture our Lord," she continued, "as he walked the earth, sitting down on a tree stump, putting a little child on His knee and saying to him, 'Now let us chat. You begin.' What could you say — what should I say?!!!"

Teaching children meant a lot to Sister Marie Dominic. She spent more than 50 years in education, teaching first-graders at Sacred Heart, St. Augustine, St. James in Waverly and Guardian Angels. She also served as a classroom assistant at Guardian Angels and St. Stanislaus. Her teaching career spanned from 1941 to 1991.

Sister Marie Dominic entered the Sisters of St. Joseph after graduating from Shortsville High School. She received her teaching certificate from Nazareth Normal School and subsequently went on to receive a bachelor of science degree in education from Nazareth College. Since 1991,



she has served as a church sacristan at St. Stanislaus Church.

Sister Mary Daniel Bovenzi, SSJ, dedicated more than 40 years of her religious life to educating children. She taught elementary

school students at St. Francis Xavier in Rochester, St. Francis De Sales in Geneva, Ss. Peter and Paul in Elmira, and Blessed Sacrament in Rochester. She went on to teach seventh- and eighth-graders at St. Francis Xavier, Corpus Christi in Rochester and St. Michael in Penn Yan. From 1963 to 1980, Sister Mary Daniel served as a teacher and principal at Christ the King and St. Augustine in Rochester.

While she was teaching, Sister Mary Daniel had the opportunity to attend Nazareth College, earning a bachelor's degree in education in 1948, and a bachelor's degree in English in 1959. Sister Mary Daniel retired from teaching in 1981, then went on to work as a resident coordinator at The Heritage in St. Ann's Home.

"I have been fulfilled by my various positions," Sister Mary Daniel said. "I enjoyed teaching very much, and I enjoyed being an administrator in the Catholic school system. I also felt I was able to make a big contribution to geriatric care, which I found to be very rewarding and stimulating."

When asked about religious life, the Rochesterian said, "I have been very happy in my choice of vocation. I have found religious life to be rewarding and productive as well as joyful and filled with many blessings — of mind and heart and spirit."

Sister Mary Daniel now serves in prayer ministry and resides at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

50 years

Sister Elaine Theresa Mulcahy has seen many changes in her years as a Sister of St. Joseph.



"The most significant change was the renewal of religious life brought about by Vatican II," she said. "My being able to take part in the choice of my ministries and participate in the government of my congregation led to meaningful results in my life."

Sister Elaine Theresa entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, after graduating from Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1943. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and English and a master's degree in English from Nazareth College. Sister Elaine Theresa taught for more than 23 years at St. Agnes High School and Nazareth Academy. She also spent a number of years as a pastoral minister at several Cayuga County parishes, later as an aide at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira and St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in Rochester. Since 1993, she has tutored kindergarten students at Corpus Christi School.



Sister Elaine Theresa resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse.

Reflecting on her life as a Sister of St. Joseph, **Sister Mary Fatima Matrachisia** simply said, "Becoming a Sister of St. Joseph has been meaningful and

rewarding for me."

Sister Mary Fatima's service has covered a variety of areas, including hospital work, home health care and education. Those years in education were served in schools throughout the Diocese of Rochester.

"I have enjoyed teaching children in the Diocese of Rochester for many years. I've enjoyed visiting the sick and caring for them, and I've enjoyed visiting the elderly. I praise and thank the Lord for all the years he has given me."

Sister Catherine Mary Masten entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1947, after graduating from East High School.



"At the time of my entrance to religious life, my hunger for God was insatiable," Sister Catherine Mary remarked. "My thought was, if I could know God better, I would truly know how to pray and get more connected with him."

Sister Catherine Mary has devoted her life to becoming more connected with God, and bringing others closer to him.

"Along with my hunger for God, the desire arose to instruct children," Sister Catherine Mary said. "I wanted to know their faith, to intelligently defend their faith and to make their love of God a practical application in their everyday life."

Sister Catherine Mary holds a bachelor of science degree in education from Nazareth College. From 1950 to 1969, she taught at St. Stanislaus, St. John the Evangelist in Greece, St. Rose in Lima, St. Francis de Sales in Geneva, Sacred Heart in Perkinsville, Corpus Christi, St. Agnes in Avon, St. Mary in Canandaigua, and St. Jerome in East Rochester. She later tutored at Holy Rosary and St. Augustine. She retired from teaching in 1971.

In 1985, she decided to study art at Nazareth College, and she now focuses on her artwork as a ministry at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

On her 50-year milestone of religious life, Sister Catherine Mary feels a great sense of gratitude for her family upbringing as well as her public school education.

"This gratitude also extends to the Sisters of St. Joseph, where in this religious community, I have experienced an interchange of love and forgiveness, nourishment, affirmation, the sharing of gifts both spiritual and physical, and an ever closer union with God," she said.

The School of the Holy Childhood holds a special place in the heart of **Sister Seraphine Herbst, SSJ.** She has spent the



last 39 years working at the school, as a teacher, principal and now, executive director.

"It has been my privilege to be associated with the children, adults, parents, staff and board of the School of the Holy Childhood," Sister

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