

FEATURE

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mary school students at Immaculate Conception, St. Paul in Oswego, St. Ambrose, St. Monica, St. Anne, St. Patrick in Mt. Morris, and St. Peter and Paul in Elmira.

In 1945 she earned a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College.

In 1973, she channeled her love for teaching in a new direction when she began working in the library at St. Peter and Paul. In 1976 she moved to St. Mary in Elmira where she worked at the school's learning center until she retired in 1980.

Currently, Sister Francis Miriam resides at St. Joseph Convent Infirmiry. Her days are full, continuing her intense interest in and love for people, and her ministry of prayer.

Sister Mary Roch Basso entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1929. Through the years, as a registered nurse, she has done it all, from assisting in the delivery of babies to comforting the sick and dying.

"My happiest years were spent in the maternity department of St. Joseph's Hospital because of the joys that surround the birth of a child," she said.

From 1930 to 1931 she worked as a nurse at the Motherhouse. For the next 16 years she served on Medical 3 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira.

"I enjoyed my years there. The patients appreciated whatever we did for them."

In 1948 Sister Mary Roch became an infirmiry nurse at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. After three years there, she returned to St. Joseph's Hospital as a supervisor of obstetrics. In 1958, she returned as an infirmiry nurse at the Motherhouse. In 1960, she returned once more to St. Joseph's Hospital as nursing supervisor, leaving for a short stint in 1963 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma, Ala.

Today, Sister Mary Roch continues to serve at St. Joseph's Hospital as a volunteer. The retired registered nurse says she wouldn't change a thing about her 70 years as a Sister of St. Joseph.

"My years as a Sister of St. Joseph have been very happy. It would still be my choice if I had to make it again."

60 Years

Sister Kathleen Kohl (formerly Sister Walter Marie), who spent years working in education and recently celebrated her 30th anniversary as a board member of De Paul, explained that she enjoys working with people.

Sister Kathleen's dedication to people is nowhere more evident than in her history as a Sister of St. Joseph. From 1942 to 1946 she taught at Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, and the following year at St. Joseph, Wayland. From 1947 to 1954 she taught at St. Aloysius, Auburn, followed by St. Lucy, St. Alphonsus, St. Stephen in Geneva, and St. Mary. From 1965 to 1971 she served as principal of St. Francis Xavier. Sister Kathleen's education career culminated at Holy Rosary in 1973.

That same year her career took on a new direction, as counselor for the aging at the Catholic Family Center. In 1992, after nearly 20 years, she stepped down from her full-time position. Today, Sister Kathleen continues at the Catholic Family Center on a volunteer basis.

From serving young children to aging neighbors, she has been an integral force in the Rochester community, but these experiences have helped her fulfill dreams.

"I always knew I wanted to work with people. Over the years, I have worked with people of all ages and all backgrounds and have found it very rewarding."

There's enthusiasm in everything **Sister Francis Cecilia English** touches. And for the past 60 years, she's touched many peo-



ple, many places.

"I love being a Sister of St. Joseph," she said. Sister Francis Cecilia entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1938. Prior to entering, she earned a B.A. degree in French from Nazareth College and an M.A. in French from Laval University.

Sister Francis Cecilia spent most of her career as a teacher. She taught kindergarten, first and second grades at St. Michael in Penn Yan. From 1943 to 1969 she was a French teacher at Elmira Catholic High School, De Sales High School in Geneva, and Nazareth Academy. From 1971 to 1977 Sister Francis Cecilia taught French part-time at the elementary school level. Later, she served as a library assistant at both Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College.

Teaching was just one of many of Sister Francis Cecilia's talents.

"I have done research, and translations from French which led to four publications," she said. "And I'm still very much engaged in research, translations and writing."

As for her life as a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Francis Cecilia remarked, "It challenges you to discover your most important values. No other lifestyle that I know would be worth the energy and efforts I put into being a Sister of St. Joseph."

Sister Joan Francis Hauser has witnessed many things during her 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph, but her most memorable experiences took place while serving at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira.

"The floods of 1946 and 1972 severely damaged the hospital, but they brought forth the kindness of the people of Elmira and the Diocese of Rochester," she recalled fondly.

Sister Joan Francis entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1938. She spent the majority of her career, from 1941 to 1981, working at St. Joseph's Hospital where she was a bookkeeper, office manager, assistant administrator, hospital treasurer and associate administrator. She also worked at St. Ann's Home in Rochester helping families in need. For 11 years (1982-93), she served as assistant to the congregational treasurer at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

Before retiring to St. Ann's Home in 1996, Sister Joan Francis was an avid volunteer.

Sister Joan Francis says she chose religious life because it was her desire to be in ministries that focused on the special needs of people, both spiritual and temporal.

More than 50 of the 60 years **Sister Leo Marie Ward** has spent as a Sister of St. Joseph have been dedicated to education.

From 1942 to 1943 Sister taught at St. Monica in Rochester. For the next two years, she taught at St. Augustine in Rochester. In January 1945, Sister Leo Marie moved to Elmira where she taught at St. Mary until 1952, and from 1952 to 1955, at Sacred Heart in Perkinsville.

In 1955, Sister Leo Marie began her ministry at St. Francis Xavier in Rochester, serving as principal and eighth-grade teacher until 1961. From 1961 to 1994, she taught at a variety of schools including Holy Trinity in Webster, St. Mary in Canandaigua, Holy Rosary, Immaculate Conception in Ithaca, St. Anthony of Padua, St. John the Evangelist in Greece, St. Joseph in Wayland, St. James in Waverly, and DeSales High School in Geneva. Sister Leo Marie also earned a master's degree in history from Nazareth College.

Through the years Sister Leo Marie has experienced many changes, but she said

Second Vatican Council brought on the most significant ones.

"Vatican Council II had a profound effect on the church and a tremendous influence on all aspects of religious life."

From the time she was a child, **Sister Margarita Boyle** dreamed of being a sister.

"I always grew up with the idea of being a sister," Sister Margarita said. "I think it was what the Lord wanted for me."

Born in Pavillion, N.Y., Sister Margarita entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1938. From 1940 to 1941 she attended Nazareth Normal School. From 1941 to 1945 she served as a housekeeper at St. Patrick in Corning.

For the next 20 years, till 1965, she was a housekeeper at St. Mary in Elmira.

"I loved my housekeeping ministry and especially enjoyed all of the cooking, sewing, washing and ironing I was able to do," she said. "It was all a life of service."

These days, Sister Margarita is busy fulfilling her arts and crafts ministry through her creations for the Sisters of St. Joseph shop, Cornerstone Crafts.

As her fingers ply the yarn for a myriad of afghans, she adds, "I enjoy making things, knowing that my work is helping the congregation care for the poor."

50 Years

Sister Mary Doran (formerly Sister Marie Matthew) said that her life as a Sister of St. Joseph "has been filled with God's blessings." The same might be said of those whose lives she has touched these past 50 years.

Sister Mary spent the greater part of her career in education. She taught at Holy Rosary and at St. James, Waverly, Blessed Sacrament, St. Agnes High School and Nazareth Academy. She also served as principal of Blessed Sacrament for one year.

From 1983 to 1984 Sister Mary served on the parish staff at St. Paul in Oswego. For the past 14 years, she has been a pastoral assistant at Mother of Sorrows.

Through the years Sister Mary has had many rewarding experiences, but she says two stand out: baptism preparation for parents, and the ministry with the dying.

"Baptism preparation for parents, sharing their joy and excitement in the birth of their child into the life of Christ has had a great impact on my life. Preparing a person for birth into eternal life has also given me a greater appreciation of life here and eternal life."

As for her decision to become a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Mary said, "I knew God was calling me. I walked into the unknown, but I do not regret a moment of it."

Sister Lorraine Julien says that the examples and friendship with the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught her at Nazareth College led her to become a Sister of St. Joseph.

As a teacher for 25 years, she taught at such schools as St. Mary in Elmira, St. Ambrose, Nazareth Hall, St. Monica, Immaculate Conception, Guardian Angels, St. Francis Xavier, St. Bridget, St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport and Queen of Peace in Selma, Ala.

In 1975 Sister Lorraine became a special needs teacher and part-time parish visitor at St. Thomas More. From 1980 to 1986, she was a pastoral assistant at St. Francis DeSales, Geneva. She spent the next four years as a pastoral assistant at St. Monica.

After a one-year sabbatical, Sister Lorraine became a teacher at the Pine Apple

Learning Center near Selma. Today, she continues to teach preschool, after-school, and summer classes at the Alabama school.

Asked what advice she might give someone who is interested in becoming a Sister of St. Joseph today, Sister Lorraine said she would tell them to enter with an open-ended "YES" to God and with a desire to live in praise of God in all they are and do.

Sister Joseph Anne Collins has dedicated nearly 30 of her 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph to teaching.

"When I taught school, I thought it was a wonderful ministry to the children," she said.

Sister Joseph Anne entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1948. She began her teaching career

in 1951 at Immaculate Conception School, Rochester. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College in 1957.

Through the years, Sister Joseph Anne taught at several schools: St. Augustine, St. Mary in Auburn, St. Pius X, Most Precious Blood, St. Anne in Palmyra, St. Francis de Sales in Geneva, Immaculate Conception in Ithaca and St. Mary's in Elmira.

These days, you can find her busy as assistant at St. Joseph Convent Infirmiry where she has worked since 1980.

"I perform all kinds of tasks for many of the elderly sisters in the infirmiry. It is a great joy for me."

During her 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph **Sister Francis Mary Rossi** has gone

from being a teacher and pastoral assistant to caring for the elderly, but says she has found gratification in all of her careers.

"As a teacher, it was a great experience to develop the minds of young children. My ministry as a pastoral assistant was also very rewarding, especially sharing in people's crises. Now, my work with the Sisters Care program is a daily meditation on the elderly. We can be their strength and companion."

From 1951 to 1978 Sister Francis Mary taught at Holy Rosary, St. Patrick in Seneca Falls, St. Elizabeth in Selma, Ala., St. Francis Xavier, Nativity in Brockport, and Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Sister Francis Mary's second career as a pastoral assistant at St. Theodore and Most Precious Blood lasted from 1978 to 1993. Since 1993, she has been caring for the sick and elderly through the Sisters of St. Joseph program, Sisters Care.

Sister Francis Mary said she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in response to God's call since her fourth-grade days.

"I was mainly drawn to a close relationship with God," she said.

As for the changes she has experienced since entering, she is pleased with the opportunities they have given.

"Since Vatican II, Sisters have the opportunity to respond to the Gospel in a variety of ways."

Sister Virginia Steinwachs (formerly Sister Francis Paula) entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1948.

Fifty years later, she continues to play a major role in the community as the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Diocese of Rochester Catholic schools.

Through the years, education has been at the heart of Sister Virginia's ministries. She began at Holy Apostles School in 1950. Subsequent ministries took her to Sacred Heart, St. Mary in Waterloo, St. Stephen in Geneva, St. Joseph's Villa, and St. Francis de Sales, Geneva. From 1968 to 1981 Sister Virginia served as principal at Holy Rosary and then Mother of Sorrows.

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