

## FEATURE

so served in that position at St. Mary in Canandaigua (1966-73). She returned to teaching at Mother of Sorrows (1973-83).

From 1983-1997, Sister Mary Alma worked as the computer coordinator for Sacred Heart Cathedral. She retired in 1997, but still lives at the parish's convent and focuses on prayer ministry.

## 60 years

**Sister Florence Ribson, SSJ**, wanted her students to excel in academics, but learning to be compassionate



and understanding proved to be just as critical. Sister Florence devoted more than 40 years of her religious career in the medical field, instructing student nurses. She taught nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira (1944-54, 1964-1970, 1979-87) and at Nazareth College (1954-64). She served as the nursing administrator at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary from 1970-79. Sister Florence entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1941, eight years after graduating from Our Lady of Mercy High School and earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Nazareth College. After entering the order, she went on to earn a master's degree in nursing education. After retiring from teaching, Sister Florence worked at Cornerstone Crafts, the congregation's religious gift shop. Since 1998, she has focused on prayer ministry, while residing at St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.



For **Sister Anne Maura Morris, SSJ**, walking into the chapel for the first time dressed as a Sister of St. Joseph proved to be the most memorable day of her religious life. Sister Anne Maura entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1941, after growing up in Canandaigua. She spent 44 years of her ministerial work in education, where she taught at Nazareth Model School (1943-44), St. Patrick in Seneca Falls (1944-45), Corpus Christi (1945-49), St. Patrick in Dansville (1949-54), St. Theodore (1954-60), St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads (1960-63), and Holy Apostles (1963-64).

She became a principal at Most Precious Blood where she served from 1964-69. She also served as principal at St. Anthony of Padua (1969-76) and St. Michael in Penn Yan (1976-82). For the next six years, she served as a tutor, teacher's aide and librarian at various schools, before officially retiring in 1988. Since 1988, she has taken on a new role, as a foster parent. Sis-

ter Anne Maura is part of the Sisters of St. Joseph ministry, Daystar, which is a foster home for critically ill or drug addicted newborns.



**Sister Margaret Irene Klem, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Louise Cecilia) began her career in education, teaching at Corpus Christi (1945-46), Holy Apostles (1946-47), Immaculate Conception (1947-48), St. Theodore (1948-49), St. Rose in Lima (1949-55), St. Francis de Sales in Geneva (1955-57), Ss. Peter and Paul in Elmira (1957-58), and again at Immaculate Conception (1958-59).

In 1959, she made a career change, becoming a hall supervisor at St. Ann's Home, and eventually, working as a nurse's aide at the facility. Margaret Irene worked at St. Ann's until 1973, when she accepted a similar post at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary. She has worked at the infirmary since then, retiring in 2000.



**Sister Victoria Woerner, SSJ**, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1941, and went on to spend her career in education. After earning a bachelor's degree in French and English from Nazareth College and a master's degree in English and education from St. Bonaventure University, she taught English at St. Agnes Institute High School (1942-44) and Nazareth Academy (1944-83). In 1983, she became a coordinator at Nazareth Academy Convent, and after five years there, she went to work in the congregation's archives department. She remained on the archives staff until 1999, when she retired. Sister Victoria is proud of her life as a woman religious, and is especially happy to have seen life in the church evolve over the past 60 years. Today, Sister Victoria focuses on her prayer ministry and resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.



**Sister Agnita Monat, SSJ**, was taught by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Buffalo. She graduated from Mt. St. Joseph High School in Buffalo, and stayed home to care for her sister, who had tuberculosis. Her sister passed away at age 17, and Sister Agnita decided to enter the convent. Sister Mary Ellen Dundon, a Buffalo native and close childhood friend, was a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. Because of this, Sister Agnita entered the congregation in Rochester. She was 21. Sister Agnita

earned two bachelor's degrees in education and history from Nazareth College. She later went on to earn a master's degree in education from the college. She taught at St. Ambrose (1943-45), St. Augustine (1945), St. Alphonsus in Auburn (1945-52), St. Anthony in Elmira (1952-55), St. Stephen in Geneva (1955-58), St. Patrick in Seneca Falls (1958-62), St. Joseph's Villa (1962-63), and Christ the King (1963-72). After a sabbatical, she continued teaching at St. Stanislaus (1973-92) and serving as a library aide at Nazareth Academy (1992-97).

Sister Agnita retired from teaching in 1997, but she still tutors two days a week at St. Boniface School. She also is assigned to prayer ministry.



**Sister Margaret Rose Aungier, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Teresa Carmel) has spent the past 25 years serving the elderly. She worked as a visiting nurse for the Visiting Nurse Service (1974-84) and as a parish visitor and sacristan at Blessed Sacrament Church (1984-99).

Sister Margaret Rose entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1941, after graduating from LaFayette High School in LaFayette, N.Y., and attending the Powelson Business Institute in Syracuse. After entering the order, she earned a B.S. from Nazareth College, and went on to teach at St. Paul in Oswego (1944-47), Immaculate Conception (1947-51, 1954-62), St. Lucy (1951-53), St. Alphonsus in Auburn (1953-54), St. John in Greece (1962-64), Our Lady of Good Counsel (1964-70), St. Monica (1970-73), and Sacred Heart Cathedral (1973-74). Today, Sister Margaret Rose continues her work with the elderly, serving as a sacristan and living at Blessed Sacrament Convent.

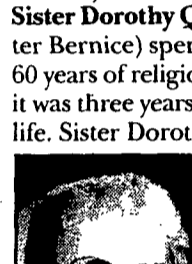


**Sister Maris Stella Jennings, SSJ**, a Geneva native, entered the order in 1941, after graduating from DeSales High School. She went on to earn a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College, a B.S. in home economics from Marywood College in Scranton, Pa., and certification in homemaking from Cornell University. She taught at Nazareth Academy (1942-43), St. Agnes Institute (1943-54), St. Agnes High School (1954-56), Nazareth Academy (1956-58), Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn (1958-70), DeSales High School in Geneva (1970-75), Nazareth Academy (1975-81) and St. Patrick in Seneca Falls (1981-86). She retired in 1987. Sister Maris Stella now serves in prayer ministry and resides at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary.



The contact that **Sister Catherine Ann Reger, SSJ**, had as a high school student with the Sisters of St. Joseph at Nazareth Academy led to her desire to become a sister. Sister Catherine Ann earned a B.S. degree in medical technology from Nazareth College and a master's degree in microbiology from St. Bonaventure University. She began her career as a lab technician, working at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira from 1942-1950. She then became a teacher, educating students at Mother of Sorrows (1950-53), St. Monica (1953-54), St. Alphonsus in Auburn (1954-55), and Nazareth Academy (1955-72). In 1972, she received a different calling, serving as a pastoral assistant at St. Alphonsus in Auburn (1972-77) and St. John the Evangelist in Greece (1977-81). In 1981, she became a supervisor for the STAR program through the Catholic Family Center, and seven years later, worked in outreach to the elderly at St. Helen's Church. She retired in 1996, and now focuses on prayer and telephone ministry.

**Sister Dorothy Quinn, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Bernice) spent only three years of her 60 years of religious life in Selma, Ala. But it was three years that forever touched her life. Sister Dorothy was assigned to teach at St. Elizabeth's School, a school for African-American children operated by the Fathers of St. Edmund, in Selma. Her tenure there (1964-67) proved to be one of the most tumultuous times in the civil rights movement. Sister Dorothy entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1941, after graduating from Webster High School. She earned a bachelor's in education from Nazareth College, and went on to teach at St. Anthony of Padua (1944-45), St. Agnes Institute (1945-47), St. Mary in Auburn (1947-51), Nativity BVM in Brockport (1951-54), St. Mary in Elmira (1954-59), St. Joseph's Villa (1959-60), St. Francis de Sales in Geneva (1960-64), St. Elizabeth in Selma (1964-67, 1990-91), St. Mary our Mother in Horseheads (1967-69), St. Anne in Palmyra (1969-70), and Immaculate Conception (1970-71). In 1971, she changed fields, becoming a parish assistant at St. Mary in Auburn. She remained in that post for 11 years, after which she was a health aide at Genesee Region Home Care and in private homes. She retired in 1999. Now she devotes her energy to prayer and quilting. Sister Dorothy made a quilt last year in honor of the 60th anniversary of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester's service in Alabama.



**Sister Matilda Lahr, SSJ**, grew up in Geneva and graduated from DeSales High School. Her career began as an educator, teaching at Immaculate Conception, Rochester (1943-45, 1970-75), St. Mary in Elmira (1945-53), and St. Jerome in East Rochester (1953-54). St. James in Waverly then received her as principal from 1954-58 and St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads from 1962-68. In between those two posts, she served as a remedial reading supervisor for the congregation. In 1968, she returned to teaching. She served at St. Lucy (1968-70), Holy Trinity in Webster (1975-81), and St. Joseph in Wayland (1982-83). Sister Matilda then changed careers, working at the Emmaus House of Prayer from 1983-91. After this, Daystar, a foster home for critically ill or drug-addicted newborns, welcomed her as a foster parent. She cared for babies from 1991-1995, when she became the coordinator of the Sisters of St. Joseph Spirituality Center. After four years as coordinator, she re-



**Sister Bernice Staub, SSND**, (formerly Sister Mary Christin) was born in Rochester in 1928, and entered the congregation from Holy Redeemer Parish in 1948. She made her first profession in 1951, and her final profession in 1957. In addition to teaching in schools in Vermont, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, she ministered at Bishop Kearney High School from 1969-1980 and again from 1986-1996, as a teacher and guidance counselor. Since 1996, Sister Bernice has been in ministry to the elderly at St. Bernard Park in Rochester.

## Two women celebrate 50th as SSND nuns

School Sisters of Notre Dame participated in a special liturgy at the motherhouse in Wilton, Conn., May 5, to honor 26 sisters celebrating jubilees this year. Two of the jubilarians have roots in Rochester.



**Sister Blanche Leising, SSND**, (formerly Sister Marie George) was born in East Amherst, N.Y., in 1925, and entered the congregation from Baltimore in 1948. She made her first profession of vows in 1951 and her fi-

nal profession in 1957. Sister Blanche began her teaching service in parish schools in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. She served in Rochester, as a teacher at St. Michael's from 1949-50, and 1972; a teacher at St. Boniface from 1968-1970 and 1974-1984, and principal from 1984-1990. She was principal at Holy Redeemer, New York City, from 1970-1972. In addition she has taught at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rochester, and worked in parish pastoral care at Holy Apostles Parish in Rochester from 1990-1995. Since 1995, Sister Blanche has been a teacher at Sacred Heart School in Rochester.



**Sister Bernice Staub, SSND**, (formerly Sister Mary Christin) was born in Rochester in 1928, and entered the congregation from Holy Redeemer Parish in 1948. She made her first profession in 1951, and her final profession in 1957. In addition to teaching in schools in Vermont, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, she ministered at Bishop Kearney High School from 1969-1980 and again from 1986-1996, as a teacher and guidance counselor. Since 1996, Sister Bernice has been in ministry to the elderly at St. Bernard Park in Rochester.

Join us on the internet at [www.catholiccourier.com](http://www.catholiccourier.com)