

## FEATURE



**Sister Mary Jean Smith, SSJ**, (formerly Sister St. Peter), a Cochocton native, worked at Blessed Sacrament (1953-54), St. Anne (1954-57), Sacred Heart in Auburn (1957-61), St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport (1961-64), St. James in Waverly (1964-65), and St. Agnes High School (1965-68).

In 1968, she became principal at Sacred Heart in Rochester, after which she became vice principal, then principal at Nazareth Academy (1970-79). During this time, Sister Mary Jean earned a bachelor's degree in English and history and a master's degree in English from Nazareth College. She retired from education in 1979, accepting a position within the Sisters of St. Joseph administration. From 1983-93, Sister Mary Jean served as the director of social ministry for St. Patrick Church in Elmira. After that she served as a pastoral associate for Immaculate Heart of Mary in Painted Post until 1996. For five years, she has worked as an administrative assistant at St. Theodore's Church.



**Sister Diane Branch, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Ellen Louise), has served in pastoral ministry for the past 27 years. "It is a very humbling experience to have people share with you their deepest thoughts, feelings and fears because they trust that you are a person living out your commitment to God in a vowed life," she said. Sister Diane first began her pastoral work at St. Joseph in Penfield. After earning her certification in pastoral ministry from Seattle University, she worked at St. Joseph's from 1974-81, after which she became pastoral assistant at St. Salome. Two years later, she moved on to Sacred Heart Cathedral. She served there from 1984-89, and during this time earned her master of pastoral ministry from Seattle University. Since 1989, she has worked at St. Paul Church in Webster, and is planning to take a sabbatical.

Prior to her pastoral work, Sister Diane earned a B.S. in music and master's degree

in music education from Nazareth College. She taught music at St. Ambrose (1953-56), St. John (1956-64), St. Anne (1964-65), and St. Pius X (1969-74).



For **Sister Patricia Pullman, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Edward Lorraine), her parents proved to be her first inspiration. The Sisters of St. Joseph proved to be the second. And as a senior at Nazareth Academy,

Sister Patricia often envisioned herself dressed as a Sister of St. Joseph, carrying out her teaching responsibilities. She entered the order in 1950, after graduating from the Academy. Her career began in education, teaching at St. Monica (1952-54), Sacred Heart (1954-61), Corpus Christi (1961-62), and St. Mary in Waterloo (1962-68). She then served as principal at Guardian Angels (1968-70) and St. Stanislaus (1970-71), before becoming a consultant in religious education for the diocese of Rochester. She worked in that capacity for two years, when she became the diocesan superintendent for instruction in religious education. She was in that position from 1973-76, after which she returned to being a principal at St. Agnes in Avon (1976-79), St. Stephen in Geneva (1979-82), and Our Lady of Lourdes (1982-86). While serving in education, Sister Patricia earned a B.S. and a bachelor's degree in history from Nazareth College, and a master's in education from Brockport State.

In 1986, she accepted the pastoral assistant position at St. Boniface. She stayed there until 1996, when she became the transportation coordinator for the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. Today, she is an assistant coordinator at the infirmary.



**Sister Anne Nothnagle, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Jean Miriam) says, "I think of the many sisters who touched my life in all its phases, and who still do so. I wish I could thank each one and tell her how much she helped me."

Sister Anne entered the Sisters of St.

Joseph in 1950, after graduating from Nazareth Academy. She earned a B.S. degree in education from Nazareth College, and went on to teach at St. Anne (1952-53), Blessed Sacrament (1953-54), Immaculate Conception in Rochester (1954-59), St. Monica (1959-1961-63), St. Mary in Dansville (1959-61), St. Mary in Canandaigua, (1963-67), and St. Paul in Oswego (1967-68).

In 1968, she traded her chalkboard for a stethoscope, becoming a nurse's aide at St. Mary's Hospital. She also attended the Rochester School of Practical Nursing and Monroe Community College, where she earned a degree in nursing. From 1970-79, Sister Anne cared for the sisters at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. She went on to care for the elderly at the Penfield Nursing Home. She retired in 1997. Since then, she has volunteered her expertise to Daystar, a Sisters of St. Joseph ministry, where sisters serve as foster parents to critically ill, drug addicted, or at risk infants.



**Sister Beverly Guyle, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Frances William) has had a wide range of opportunities as a Sister of St. Joseph. She began her religious life in teaching at such schools as Immaculate Conception (1952-53),

St. Monica (1953-55, 1965), Immaculate Conception in Ithaca (1955-61), Christ the King (1961-62), St. Theodore (1962-64), and St. Alphonsus in Auburn (1965-66).

She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College. After spending three years in congregational service at the motherhouse, she went to work as a nurse's aide at St. Ann's Home, then at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary. In 1975, she returned to congregational service, assisting sisters with daily needs and driving them to appointments. Today, she is a personal care assistant at the infirmary, and resides at the motherhouse.



As a young girl, **Sister Marion Hctor, SSJ**, (formerly Sister Thomas Marion) often passed by a city church, which regularly displayed inspirational messages for anyone who cared to notice.

Sister Marion did. One such message read, "Give your life to God. God can do more with it than you can."

Sister Marion entered the Sisters of St. Joseph, after graduating from Nazareth Academy. Since then she has spent 44 years of her religious life in education, serving primarily as an English professor at Nazareth College. During her career, Sister Marion earned a number of college degrees: a bachelor's in English and history from Nazareth College; a master's in English from Cornell University; a master's from Oxford University; and a doctorate in English from Cornell.

Today in her spare time, Sister Marion volunteers for a variety of ministries, assisting with Catholic services at the Rochester Psychiatric Center and being a tutor for Kosovo refugee children in the SSJ summer educational program. "Last summer, one of the young Kosovar girls in my class gave me a hug and said, 'I love you!'" Sister Marion said. "I'd like to think that she was not just 'practicing her English.'"

## 25 years



Possibly one of the greatest rewards for **Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ**, has been the founding and subsequent success of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center. The center, which she founded in 1995, provides health care to the area's uninsured or underinsured. "All people need to be treated and cared for in exactly the same way," she said. "And that's what we're striving for." A Nazareth Academy graduate, Sister Christine entered the Sisters of St. Joseph after graduating from SUNY Brockport with a B.S. in English. She began her religious career at the School of the Holy Childhood as an instructor. In 1979, she joined the staff of St. Patrick in Seneca Falls, where she taught for two years. She went on to work at St. Joseph's Villa from 1981-83, and then became the congregation's social justice coordinator. After one year she became regional director for justice and peace at the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry. In 1987, she went back to school, earning a degree in social science from Syracuse University. After graduation she served again as the congregation's coordinator for social justice while working part-time at Nazareth College. She left those posts in 1995, to establish the Neighborhood Center.



Awed by the accomplishments of the sisters before her, **Sister Barbara Olmstead, SSJ**, feels privileged to be a Sister of St. Joseph. "At our 350th anniversary celebration we prayed that we were 'ordinary people' together within the church working to meet the needs of the time. That is especially meaningful to me." Sister Barbara entered the Sisters of St. Joseph after graduating from Nazareth Academy and receiving her certification as a registered nurse from St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. She worked at Rochester General Hospital for one year, then went on to St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira (1977-82). In 1982, she worked in the oncology department for the Visiting Nurse Service and remained there for four years, then returning to school to earn her master's degree in nursing from Syracuse University.

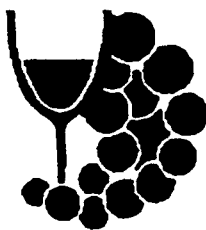
In 1988, Sister Barbara became the supervising community health nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, but soon went to work as a nurse practitioner at the Hospice of Central New York. In 1990, she accepted the same position at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital in Syracuse. She has been on a sabbatical from that job since last year.



**Sister Patricia McDermott, SSJ**, learned a lot from her mother, Elly, who shared love, generosity and faith with family and friends. Sister Patricia now feels blessed by her sisters. "My sisters in Christ

have helped me to continue my journey of growth, love and service to others," she said. "First my mother, then my sisters have brought me to where I am." Sister Patricia earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies and elementary education, and a master's in education from Nazareth College. She began her religious career at St. Jerome in East Rochester (1979-81) and St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport (1981-85). In 1985, she accepted a teaching position at School of the Holy Childhood, where she remained for seven years. In 1992, Sister Patricia made a career change and became an ultrasound sonographer for Ide Radiology (1994-95) and Highland Hospital (1995-97). She decided to return to teaching, accepting a job at St. Boniface, where she has worked since 1997. She also volunteers as a coach for Special Olympics.

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