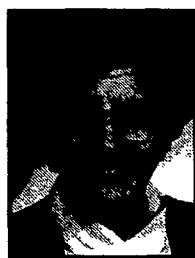


MILESTONES

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For more than 43 years, she taught every grade on the elementary school level. Yet, Sister Gemma Marie Cammilleri believes her students taught her far more than she taught them.

"Their simplicity, their open spirit, their willingness to forgive and forget helped me to know and love God far better than any other possible experience or event could ever do," Sister Gemma Marie said. "Of them, Jesus said, 'Of such is the kingdom of heaven.' The children brought heaven to earth for me."

Sister Gemma Marie taught in more than 15 different schools during her career. Among those schools were St. Francis Xavier, Holy Rosary, Most Precious Blood, Guardian Angels and Nazareth Hall in Rochester; St. Mary and St. Alphonsus in Auburn; St. Mary in Elmira; and St. Agnes in Avon. She retired from teaching in 1977 and then worked for the congregation until 1990. She is now retired and focusing on prayer ministry.



According to Sister Margaret Louise Konsick, when you paint a house you can see whether you have done a good job. As a teacher, the job you do is not always apparent.

"How do you know?" she asked rhetorically. "It is not whether students will be successful, but are they better persons? I pray for my former pupils every day, that they are better persons."

Born in Titusville, Fla., Sister Margaret Louise devoted 37 years of her religious life to education. She taught at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Patrick, St. Lucy, St. Ambrose, St. Anthony of Padua, St. Monica, St. Augustine and Blessed Sacrament in Rochester; St. Alphonsus in Auburn; St. Michael in Penn Yan; St. John the Evangelist in Greece; St. Mary in Waterloo; and St. Joseph in Wayland. In 1971, Sister Margaret Louise became a library assistant at Nazareth Academy, serving in that post for seven years. She then concentrated on making crafts for Cornerstone Crafts at the motherhouse until 1992, when she retired.



In the Gospel scene, Jesus said, "When you put your hand to the plow, you do not turn back."

"I grew up in a time when firmness of commitment was basic," Sister Marie Stanislaus Chwalek said. "It be-

came a part of all you did. The thought of doing or being anything else but a Sister of St. Joseph never occurred to me. I learned that once a decision is made, you follow through and keep plowing."

Seventy years later Sister Marie Stanislaus takes pride in her commitment to religious life and fulfilling her ministry through education. She served at Holy Rosary, Corpus Christi, St. Stanislaus and Immaculate Conception in Rochester; Holy Trinity in Webster; and St. Casimir in Elmira. At St. Casimir, she became principal, serving in that position for three years. She went on to be principal at St. Pius Tenth in Chili (1976-77) and St. Joseph in Wayland (1977-93).

Sister Marie retired in 1993, but maintains strong ties with former students and their families.



For Sister Mary Bernadette Aselin, whose parents instilled in her a love for all people, becoming a Sister of St. Joseph was a natural continuation of her upbringing.

"My parents taught me to love everyone, especially the poor," Sister Mary Bernadette said. "And as a Sister of St. Joseph I have tried to do just that."

Seventy years of religious life has taken Sister Mary Bernadette from education to spiritual ministry to social service. She spent the first 43 years of her career teaching at St. Monica and St. Anne in Rochester and St. Anthony in Elmira. At the latter, she also served as principal, and went on to serve in that position at Blessed Sacrament (1975-78) and Holy Rosary (1978-81).

In 1981, she changed ministries, working at the Emmaus House of Prayer and the SSJ Spirituality Center. During this time, she also volunteered at St. Martin's Place, a Sisters of St. Joseph soup kitchen.

She retired in 1998, but continues to volunteer at St. Martin's.

60 years



Prayer and work have been rich and rewarding for Sister Irene Wolter.

"Every day has been a happy one since I entered," she said. "For my whole religious life, I am immensely grateful to God."

For more than four decades, Sister Irene was a mainstay at Nazareth College, supervising the college's food service. For a brief period prior to that, she was assigned to sewing and food

service at the motherhouse.

Since 1987, Sister Irene has been retired and concentrating on her prayer ministry.

"God's blessing has been very much with me all these 60 years and more," Sister Irene said. "I have met so many wonderful, friendly women, men and students. I just can't say enough."



For Sister Teresa Singer, one of the rewards of being in education was the opportunity to watch children grow.

She remembers one example of a kindergarten student, who was waiting for the bus.

"I remember one day he was the last child, waiting and watching for the bus," she recalled. "He began to look sad and about to cry. So I engaged him in a conversation about his family. His face then didn't seem so scared. Another time, the same boy turned to me at the bus stop and said, 'Sister, you don't have to watch me. I can do it myself.' He was acting grown up now, and that was the beauty of being in education, to see the children grow and blossom."

Fifty years of Sister Teresa's religious life was in education. She taught at Holy Trinity, Webster; Nazareth Hall, Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary, Rochester; St. Patrick, Mt. Morris; St. Mary, Dansville; St. Jerome, East Rochester; St. Paul, Oswego; and St. Mary, Canandaigua. Retiring in 1995, Sister Teresa is now in prayer ministry.



As a child growing up in Victor, Sister Edwarda McCarthy remembers celebrating every Sunday with her family.

Her parents stressed the importance of dressing up in their best, attending Mass and honoring God. This experience laid the groundwork for her decision to enter the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Edwarda first met the sisters while a student at Nazareth College. "The sisters, by their great learning, culture, refinement and friendliness, were a source of great inspiration to me," she said. "So I entered."

For 41 years, she taught at Nazareth Academy, St. Agnes High School, Our Lady of Lourdes and Blessed Sacrament in Rochester; DeSales High School in Geneva; Elmira Catholic High School; and Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn. Since 1984, she has served as a receptionist at the motherhouse.

For Sister Marie Stephanie McCaughey, a Wyoming County native, one of the greatest aspects of being a Sister of St. Joseph is beginning each day at holy Mass. "I love go-

ing to Mass. It's why I entered, and it's why I stayed."



Sister Marie Stephanie also loves music and taught the subject for more than 46 years at Nazareth Academy, Immaculate Conception Nazareth College and Nazareth Hall.

In addition to teaching music, Sister Marie Stephanie also devoted many years to serving as the organist for parish funerals and funerals at the motherhouse.

In 1990, she retired from teaching and became a part-time receptionist at the motherhouse. Nine years later, she retired again to focus on her prayer ministry.



Teaching first grade was such a joy for Sister Irma Coccia. "It was thrilling for me to help the little ones learn the basics of reading and math, not to leave out teaching them to pray and love God," Sister Irma said. "It was so rewarding when a child would come with a little library book and say, 'Sister, I can read this book!'"

Sister Irma taught at Sacred Heart, St. Bridget, Holy Apostles and Our Lady of Good Counsel in Rochester; St. Francis de Sales in Geneva; and St. Patrick in Mt. Morris.

In 1982, she served as receptionist at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse and went on to become pastoral assistant at Sacred Heart Cathedral. In 1984, she joined the staff of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, where she worked as the assistant local coordinator for 11 years. She retired from that position in 1995, but still remains active at the infirmary.



Sister Karen Considine wanted to become a Sister of St. Joseph to fulfill her call by God, and she wanted to carry out this calling by serving others in the health-care field.

Sister Karen spent 42 years in nursing, working as an instructor and supervisor at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira (1944-59, 1972-86), an instructor at Nazareth College (1959-62) and director of nursing at St. Ann's Home (1962-71).

"I loved my role as night supervisor at St. Joseph's Hospital because there you are at the crux of hospital care," Sister Karen shared. "One night, a child who was very, very ill looked up at me and said, 'Are you a ghost?' I answered, 'No, I'm a church la-

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Mount Saviour Monastery
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Mastery of Mary the Queen
1310 West Church Street
Elmira, NY 14905-1998
Telephone: 607-734-9506
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website: www.op.org/maryqueen



Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart
Sr. Donna Fannon, MHSB
G-22 Annabel Taylor Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853
Telephone: 607-255-4228
email: dmf8@cornell.edu



Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sister Kathleen Wayne, RSM
NYPAW Vocation Minister
1437 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14610-2298
Telephone: 585-288-2710, ext. 109
Fax: 585-288-2756
e-mail:
kathleen@mercyrochester.org



Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Contact: Barbara Lum, SSJ
Marilyn Pray, SSJ
4095 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618
Telephone: 585-641-8122
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