

MILESTONES

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60 years

Sisters celebrating 60 years of Mercy entered the Sisters of Mercy on September 8, 1941, and were received on July 2, 1942.



Sister Mary Margaret Caulfield (Sister Mary Benedict), is a 1939 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School. She earned her bachelor of science in music education at Nazareth College in 1952 and her master's degree in music education from the Eastman School of Music in 1957.

From 1944 through 1960, Sister Margaret taught vocal and instrumental music at St. Andrew's and Holy Cross schools in Rochester and St. Louis School in Pittsford. She also served as music supervisor for the Mercy community from 1957 to 1960. In 1960, Sister Margaret began teaching music at St. John the Evangelist in Rochester. She continued that ministry of bringing the gift of a love of music until her retirement in 1996. Upon her retirement, Sister Margaret began her current bereavement ministry to "walk with those who mourn."



Sister Mary Dismas Foster may be best known as the force behind the Sisters of Mercy roast beef suppers. She has spent much of the past 60 years in the kitchen — and is happy about it! From 1944 to 1955, she taught elementary education at St. Charles School in Rochester. She then taught homemaking for the next 12 years (1955-67) at Our Lady of Mercy High School. From 1967-70 she ministered in the motherhouse kitchen. Then, in 1967, she returned to the

classroom, teaching home economics. She has been at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for almost 20 years in a variety of ministries, including parish worker, furniture ministry, spiritual apostolate and volunteer.



Born in Rochester to Joseph and Ruth Gilligan, **Sister Mary Ruth Gilligan** taught and served as an administrator in Rochester diocesan schools for more than 40 years. This path led her to St. John the Evangelist, St. Thomas,

St. Salome's, Cardinal Mooney and Our Lady of Mercy in Rochester and St. Patrick's, Owego. In 1986, she received the Inspirational Teacher Award presented by Nazareth College. Upon her retirement in 1985, Sister Ruth volunteered as a driver for senior sisters. Since 1987, she has provided assistance in the regional community's treasurer's office.



After 60 years, the flame still burns within for **Sister Virginia Wilson (Sister Mary Gonzaga)**. Sister Ginny taught in numerous Rochester schools for 36 years (1944-1980), including Mt. Carmel, Holy Cross, St. Charles,

St. Salome's, St. John the Evangelist, St. Rita's, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of Mercy and Cardinal Mooney. In 1980 she became one of the founders of Mercy Prayer Center, which is celebrating its 22nd anniversary. In 1993, Sister Ginny began her current ministry of candle making. She creates hundreds of candles each year in her "Candle with Care" studio on the ground level of the motherhouse. What makes her candles special is that they are made with 100 percent recycled wax. Sister Ginny includes in her prayers everyone who burns one of her candles. "Is there a better use for recycled wax than

that?" she asked.

50 years

Sisters celebrating 50 years of Mercy entered the Sisters of Mercy on September 8, 1951, and were received on April 20, 1952.



A native Rochesterian, **Sister Patricia Flynn (Sister Mary Blaise)**, followed the path of many sisters with an education ministry. She taught school in Rochester at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Annunciation and St. Salome's.

From 1963 to 1967, Sister Pat taught fifth grade at St. Ann's in Hornell. The ministry she began at St. Michael's Woodshop in 1967, working with high school-aged boys and girls, continues today. The goal of her ministry is to keep these boys and girls off the streets and out of trouble.



Sister Elaine Kolesnik (Sister Mary Christine), was born in Rochester and graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1944. She received a bachelor's degree in English from Nazareth College and a master's degree

also in English from Catholic University of America. English and journalism played a role in Sister Elaine's ministries during her years as a Sister of Mercy. She taught English, journalism and public speaking at Mercy High School from 1951-72. From 1966-68 she was principal/superior at St. Thomas Apostle School. For 24 years (1972-96) she held a variety of ministries for the regional community: public relations, novice director, formation team member and religious education coordinator. Sister Elaine was responsible for establishing the regional community

newsletter 30 years ago. Since 1996 she has ministered as a parish visitor for St. John's Parish in Rochester.



Sister Estelle Martin is an artist, liturgist, poet and author whose background includes a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights College in art and English, a master degree in art from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame.

From 1954 until 1982, Sister Estelle taught in a number of Rochester schools: St. Andrew's, St. Thomas the Apostle, Holy Cross, Cardinal Mooney and Our Lady of Mercy. Since 1982, she has worked concurrently in three ministries for the regional community: liturgical consultant, assistant to the treasurer and graphic designer. Sister Estelle designs many materials produced by the regional community, including newsletters, logos, stationery and brochures.



Sister Jacquelyn Reichart (Sister Mary Matthias), is a native of Rochester and a 1951 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School. Her 29 years of teaching ministry began in 1954 and included stints at St. Louis, Pittsford; St.

Andrew's, St. James and Our Lady of Mercy in Rochester; and St. Joseph's, Penfield. Since 1981, Sister Jackie has been engaged in pastoral ministry at St. Thomas More (1981-87) and Our Lady Queen of Peace, where she is pastoral administrator.



Sister Nancy Whitley (Sister Mary Margaretta), has served in varied ministries during 50 years as a Sister of Mercy, ministries woven together with a common thread: "telling the story of Mercy."

She taught at five schools between 1954 and 1959: St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Andrew, Our Lady of Mercy and St. John the Evangelist in Rochester, and St. Michael's, Newark. She then served as superior of St. Rita's School (1967-68). Sister Nancy ministered in the guidance department of Our Lady of Mercy High School (1968-81). From 1981-89, she served on the leadership team for the Rochester Regional Community. She was director of development/fund development for the next seven years. In 1996, Sister Nancy began a three-year term as a staff member at the Mercy International Centre in Dublin, Ireland. She currently serves in two ministries: director of Mission Services since 1999 and, since last year, director of Mercy Associates.

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