

My work with both children and adults was very rewarding. I continue to be happy in my calling to religious life and am grateful to God for this calling. Amen!"



Sister Kathleen Maloney (Sister Marie Christine) entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Mary Parish in Elmira. In her teaching ministry, she has served at Nazareth Academy, Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn and Nazareth College where she retired in 1988. She currently serves the congregation as grant writer.

"It was during my college years that I was able to articulate my religious vocation. My response to vocation, though totally without my being aware, had been building since childhood. After entering the convent, I found that I was to become a teacher. My teaching years spent at Nazareth Academy, Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn and Nazareth College were fulfilling beyond words. It has been a life filled with love — of my God, my students, the sisters with whom I've lived and of my colleagues in teaching."



Sister Louise Weber (Sister Josephine Louise) joined the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Redeemer Parish in Rochester. She taught at Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College. She also served as a member of the congregation's leadership team and presently resides at the motherhouse.

Of her dear friend Sister Weber, Sister Francella Quinn writes: "Sister Louise had an outstanding personality and a way with all people. In her many roles at Nazareth College she could call every student by name. She had a gift for recognizing and fostering the inherent talents in each of them. For many Nazareth College graduates, their memories of the school are entwined with their memories of Sister Louise. Her cards, notes, phone calls and contacts with former students throughout the United States helped to strengthen the Alumni Association to what it is today."



Sister Mary Agnes Tierney (Sister Marie DeSales) taught at Sacred Heart, St. Monica, St. Pius X and Nazareth Academy in Rochester; St. Stephen, Geneva; and Immaculate Concep-

tion, Ithaca, after entering the congregation from Blessed Sacrament in Rochester. She presently ministers at Nazareth Academy.

"At age 17 I entered religious life feeling that I had 'crashed the party.' What if 'they' find out how lacking in virtue I am? After awhile came the realization that there were others also woefully imperfect! We were all 'not-yets!' After 60 years (still far from perfection), I am very grateful for the many opportunities afforded me to develop my personal spirituality and prayer life. I have come to recognize God's unconditional love for me — the source of my strength for the journey."



Sister Veronica Marie Freida, from Holy Redeemer Parish, Rochester, has served in Elmira at St. Joseph's Hospital, in Rochester at St.

Ann's Home, and at the congregation's motherhouse and convent infirmary. She is currently in the prayer ministry.

"Throughout the years, prayer has been a constant part of my life and has helped me to bring enthusiasm to all of my ministries. Of them, my most cherished memories come from the years I spent working at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. The many wonderful people I met at the hospital, those I worked with and the sisters I lived with brought many blessings to my life. My decision to become a Sister of St. Joseph has granted me much happiness, for it has enabled me to grow closer to God and to serve his people."



Sister Marie Michelle Peartree joined the Sisters of St. Joseph from Sacred Heart Parish, Rochester. Her ministries included teaching at St. John the Evangelist in Greece; Blessed Sacrament, Rochester; St. Patrick, Corning; St. Mary, Auburn; and St. James, Waverly. She also served as administrator at St. Ann's Home and currently is a volunteer for Elder Abuse and St. Martin's Place.

"When I entered the congregation in 1942, I had hoped to become a nurse, but instead became a teacher. In 1962, the congregation sent me to St. Louis University for a degree in hospital administration. Upon my return two years later, I was asked to go to St. Ann's Home as administrator. Living in community with my sisters has been a blessing and a life-giving experience. Each sister's presence and ex-

ample has added something special to my life and enriched it. So for 60 years I am deeply grateful to God and to all who have touched my life and to all who have allowed me to touch their lives."



Sister Joseph Gilmary Russel entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Monica Parish in Rochester. She has taught at Our Mother of Sor-

rows, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Lourdes in Rochester; St. Mary in Auburn; and St. Aloysius in Auburn. She presently ministers at the motherhouse.

"God has touched me in a significant way with his gift of vocation to the Sisters of St. Joseph. And he has enabled me to touch the lives of many others, especially children, through the ministry of education. When I look back over the past 60 grace-filled years, I experience a deep sense of gratitude for the joys, the challenges and even the trials that have come my way. These sentiments are best expressed by the simple, yet meaningful words, 'thank you.'"

50 YEARS



Sister Campion Bush entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Elmira's Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. She taught at St. Monica, Our Mother of Sor-

rows, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart and Nazareth Academy in Rochester; St. Patrick, Mt. Morris; St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads; St. Patrick Junior High, Elmira; and Immaculate Conception in Ithaca. After serving as evangelization director at St. Augustine Parish, she was the first evangelization coordinator for the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward in Rochester and currently ministers at the motherhouse.

"Looking back at my years of service in Catholic education, my heroes and heroines were the parents who sent their children for faith reasons to these schools and paid high tuition, worked bingo, did fundraising, etc., as well as the other parishioners and friends who supported these schools. In the late '80s, I had the opportunity to hear Father Alvin Illig preach about evangelization. I began to pray and read about this topic, and my growing interest led to my next career as the evangelization director for St. Augustine's Parish. My work was very fulfilling, and I was

pleased to watch as parishioners became increasingly involved in parish life. To share our faith is a beautiful and powerful gift."



Sister Doretta Rhodes of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish has served in the congregation's education ministry at St. Anthony of Padua, Nazareth Hall, Sa-

cred Heart and St. Joseph's Villa in Rochester; St. John the Evangelist in Greece; St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads; St. Aloysius, Auburn; and St. Elizabeth in Selma, Ala. Her other ministries included pastoral assistantships at St. Dominic, Shortsville; Good Shepherd, Henrietta; and St. Ambrose and St. Francis of Assisi in Rochester, as well as elder care in the congregation's Sisters Care. She presently volunteers at Nazareth Academy's library.

"During my senior year in high school, with the help of my pastor, I began to explore religious congregations and ultimately settled on the SSJs. Fifty years later I can truly say it was the right choice for me! All the many places and people I have met along the way have enriched my life with adventure, peace and many friendships. I am sincerely grateful for the many people who have touched my life, and I pray that together we have grown closer to God."



Sister Francesca Tundo entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Sacred Heart Parish in Watertown, N.Y. She has taught at St. Theodore in

Rochester and St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads. She currently serves in elder care in the congregation's Sisters Care ministry.

"As I reflect on my 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph, I am awed at God's blessings. It has been with gratitude that I have been able to share these blessings as teacher, principal and now, in the autumn of my life, as a caregiver to the elderly. I consider my family and all those who have touched my life in any way as a gift, for having shown me who God is. Asked if, given the opportunity, would I again choose religious life, I answer wholeheartedly in the affirmative, for the challenges of the day are still with us."

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