

"It is very simply the grace of God which has brought me to this point. I feel my life has been very blessed."



After entering the Sisters of St. Joseph from Sacred Heart Parish in Rochester, **Sister Barbara Lum** (formerly Sister Eleanor) pursued a career in nursing. She served at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira and Good Samaritan Hospital in Selma, Ala. Returning to Rochester, she taught in the School of Nursing at the University of Rochester and was a nurse practitioner at Corpus Christi Health Center. She is currently an educational specialist in the Certified Nursing Program at the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center.

"Influenced by my teachers at Sacred Heart School and at Nazareth, I entered religious life, and had the privilege of studying nursing. My assignment to Good Samaritan Hospital and St. Elizabeth Convent in Selma, Ala., coincided with the peak of the civil rights movement and the Selma march for voting rights for black citizens.

"After returning to Rochester, challenges and rich relationships continued to be a part of my ministry. For 27 years, I taught at the University of Rochester School of Nursing. For the last 15 years, I have worked in Rochester's inner city Baby Love program, an outreach to pregnant and parenting women at risk of having a low-birth-weight baby.

"Living this commitment, I believe, is only possible with God's grace and the strong example and support of many people."



Sister Diane Muldoon (formerly Sister Celina) entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Mary Parish, Auburn. After teaching at Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart

schools in Rochester and at St. Mary in Elmira, she became a cottage supervisor at St. Joseph's Villa. She is currently the Villa's director of support services.

"During my 50 years I have had the privilege to walk with Sisters of St. Joseph. They are women of great wisdom and deep commitment.

"My first ministry was teaching — in both Rochester and Elmira. Though I was enjoying teaching, the request came to me to be a cottage 'mother' at St. Joseph's Villa. So I became supervisor for eight young boys — living with and caring for children who had many needs. This was both a challenge and a joy.

"As the Villa continued to expand

services, administration asked me to become the director of support services and centralized purchasing. I continue now in this role."



Sister Benita Nicholas, currently supervisor of adult programs at the School of the Holy Childhood, entered the congregation from St. Mary Parish in Auburn.

In her teaching ministry, she served in Rochester at Holy Rosary and St. Stanislaus schools and at the School of the Holy Childhood. She also taught at St. James, Waverly.

"I was in the seventh grade at St. Mary's School in Auburn when I knew that religious life was my vocation. The sisters at St. Mary's were welcoming women of laughter, fun, playfulness — and they were very good teachers. It was their lifestyle that drew me to the Sisters of St. Joseph.

"Like the sisters who first influenced me, I have always been involved in education — first as a teacher and then for the past 30 years as the supervisor of the adult day training program at the School of the Holy Childhood — a program for those with developmental disabilities. I loved all of my ministries.

"In my community I continue to be surrounded by faithful women, willing to give their very best in service to all God's people."



A wide variety of teaching assignments has comprised **Sister Jacqueline Robinson's** ministry in education. Having entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St.

Cecilia Parish in Elmira as **Sister Constantia**, she served at St. John the Evangelist in Greece and at St. Monica, St. Augustine, St. Anthony of Padua, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Ambrose schools, all in Rochester. She also taught at St. Agnes, Avon; St. Anthony, Elmira; St. Mary, Canandaigua; St. Patrick, Corning; St. Stephen, Geneva; St. Mary, Auburn; St. Michael, Penn Yan; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; and DeSales High School in Geneva.

She is presently parish secretary at St. Anthony of Padua in Rochester.

"In my senior year, I came to Nazareth College for a scholarship exam and visited the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse. That visit settled my vocation.

"For me the journey has been one of much joy and many lasting friendships."



Sister Rita Rutzke, who entered the congregation from St. Casimir Parish in Elmira, has taught at St. Stanislaus, Nazareth Hall and Our Lady of Good Counsel in

Rochester; the BOCES Forman Center, Fairport; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls; St. Mary our Mother, Horseheads; St. Mary and Ss. Peter and Paul, in Elmira; and Immaculate Conception in Ithaca. She currently serves in the congregation's motherhouse services.

"I am grateful for the heritage that is mine as a Sister of St. Joseph of Rochester. I am grateful for the gift of friends, education, opportunity and ministry; for the challenges, encouragement and support that exists among us, empowering us to grow as church, as religious, as people. I can't believe it has been 50 years already. My life has been so rewarding."

25 YEARS



Sister Mary Louise Mitchell of St. Patrick Parish in Corning has pursued a career ministry in nursing as a Sister of St. Joseph. She has been a nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, a professor of nursing at Nazareth College and has served in the SSJ Spirituality Ministry. She is currently serving as a councilor on the congregation's leadership team.

"Being a Sister of St. Joseph is one of the greatest gifts of my life.

"Many people think individuals who enter religious life have had to 'give up' so much. My response to this is that religious life is a pearl and that those of us who discover this pearl have received a tremen-

dous gift. The gift is community, and it is through this gift that I am best able to live out my baptismal commitment. It is my belief that every way of life is a pearl. Each of us has to discern which pearl God desires for us. Once we have discovered this — God does the rest."



Sister Marlene Pape entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Utica. She has ministered in nursing at the Monroe County Health

Department and Nazareth Academy in Rochester and at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. She is now a chemical dependency counselor at Park Ridge Hospital in Rochester.

"When I joined the Sisters of St. Joseph, I was a registered nurse and graduate student. I had good friends, financial resources and a challenging profession. Still, I was looking for a deeper purpose in my life.

"When my college chaplain introduced me to the Sisters of St. Joseph, I met women who were genuinely happy with their lives, supportive of one another and committed to ministry.

"My ministries have given me opportunities to be an agent of healing. From home-care nursing with critically-ill children to my present ministry as a chemical-dependency counselor, I've had the privilege of working with people during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

"With gratitude, I recall that all of this is exactly what I was looking for at the beginning of this journey!"



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