

February 2011 Jubilarians

Although most of our Sisters entered the Congregation in September, in years past, some entered in February. They did so on February 2, an important Church celebration originally known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin and, more recently, as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

75 years (1936)

Sr. Eileen Mary Finnegan, SC, (Sr. Marie Ignatius) was an educator and served at 10 grammar schools in three dioceses over 48 years. Her longest school associations were with St. Peter's in Haverstraw (1949-59) and with the Elizabeth Seton Academy in Yonkers (1970-81). Sr. Eileen also was principal at Holy Trinity in Mamaroneck (1963-65). Her Congregational service included the post of Sister Servant while at Holy Trinity and 12 years working at the Congregation's administrative headquarters at Mount Saint Vincent after retiring from schools. *(Sister died on February 6 of this year – just four days after the 75th anniversary of her entering the Congregation.)*

70 Years (1941)

Sr. Regina Catherine Gorga, SC, taught at 7 elementary schools over 45 years. Her longest school associations were Blessed Sacrament on Staten Island (1944-55) and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Shrub Oak, NY (1966-96). At the upstate school, Sr. Regina taught grades 3 & 4 over 20 years, then spent 9 years in supervisory and clerical duties at the school. She was a volunteer in her final year there.

Sr. Marion Halpin, SC, (Sr. Marie James) has been a teacher, accountant, program administrator and social worker. Her 57 years of service started with teaching at four schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. Then, she worked in the accounting office at The New York Foundling for six years, before managing the Student Aid Program at the College of Mount Saint Vincent for 7 years. After returning to school for her Masters in Education, Sister worked as a geriatric social worker with Catholic Charities for 10 years. That was followed by 20 years in parish ministry at St. John the Evangelist, Pawling, NY.

Sr. Marian Margaret Sullivan, SC, dedicated her ministry to education and library service. Her first 19 years were spent teaching elementary schools in Manhattan and the Bronx. At Blessed Sacrament, the Bronx, Sister added library duties to her teaching of pre-high school subjects. Sr. Marian spent a total of 41 years on the college level as a librarian: 29 years at Elizabeth Seton College, Yonkers, and 12 years at Iona College, New Rochelle. She closed out her active ministry as a volunteer for 2 years at the Barnabas High School library.

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65 Years (1946)

Sr. Marie T. Daly, SC, (Sr. Mary Placida) spent 47 years in active education ministry. She was associated with six schools over the years in Manhattan, the Bronx, New Rochelle and White Plains. After 22 years as a teacher, Sister became principal at St. John Evangelist in White Plains, and served in that capacity for 25 years (1969-1994). After retiring, she continued to serve the parish as a volunteer for another 14 years.

Sr. Helen Marie Horton, SC, (Sr. Mary Liguori) began her education ministry teaching the lower grades in schools in Manhattan, the Bronx and Queens. After 20 years at four different schools, Sister joined the staff at the Instructional Television Center in Yonkers. There, she served as Program Director and Program Scheduler for 30 years. Sr. Helen then moved on to Congregational service, where she was Volunteer of Special Projects at Boyle Hall, which houses the Sisters of Charity Archives.

Sr. Virginia Catherine Jarczynski, SC, (Sr. Katherine Veronica) has been both an educator and an administrator. After teaching for 8 years at Holy Name Day Nursery in Manhattan, Sister volunteered for service in the Congregation's ministries in The Bahamas, where she taught at two schools over 12 years. In 1967, Sr. Virginia returned to NY and was Director of Volunteers at The New York Foundling Hospital for five years. The next 11 years were spent as Attendance Coordinator at St. Peter High School on Staten Island. That was followed by a total of eight years on staff at two Congregation properties.

Sr. Mary T. Kane, SC, (Sr. John Maureen) taught at 6 elementary schools and served as principal at St. Peter's in Poughkeepsie (1962-68). Her longest school association was with St. Anthony in the Bronx, where she taught grade 6 (1974-83), then was a remedial substitute teacher (1987-95). Sister served a year as a clerical assistant at Cathedral High School. Her Congregational service included 4 years on the management team at a guest house and 7 years as switchboard operator at the Mount Saint Vincent Convent.

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60 years (1951)

Sr. Dolores Ann Calamari, SC, (Sr. Agnes Dolores) began her nursing ministry in 1953 as a staff nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Manhattan, where over 12 years, she would also serve as a supervisor and instructor. Sister also was a supervisor and nursing instructor for six years at St. Vincent's on Staten Island. In 1971, Sr. Dolores Ann began her three-decades-long association with Pace University, Pleasantville, NY, as an instructor/assistant professor in nursing. Between 1995 and 2003, Sister served at St. Agnes Hospital's Maternity Clinic-Childbirth Education for the poor in White Plains while a professor emeritus at Pace. Since 1995, Sr. Dolores has been an active volunteer – with her Congregation; at Holy Innocents Church in Pleasantville, NY; and at various suburban retirement homes.

Sr. Maria Louis Octavio, SC, has been an active volunteer since “retiring” in 1991 after 38 years of working with young children. She began at The New York Foundling Hospital in Manhattan, where she was assistant to the director of the School of Child Care (1953-66). Then Sister moved into the classroom and taught first grade for 10 years at St. Peter School in Poughkeepsie, followed by 15 years teaching fourth grade at Sacred Heart on Staten Island. In 1983, Sr. Maria Louis began what would be 20 years as a summer docent at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD. Sister currently volunteers at the College of Mount Saint Vincent where, among other things, she prepares meals and clothing packets for distribution to the homeless during Midnight Runs.

Sr. Elizabeth Theresa Stelmack, SC, (Sr. Edward Maureen) began her nursing ministry in 1953, at St. Vincent's Hospital on Staten Island. Sister also served at St. Vincent's Hospital in Harrison, NY, for a total of 15 years: as a staff nurse, as Director of Patient Representatives (1984–91) and, since 2004, as a volunteer. Sister also served as a nurse at the Convent of Mary the Queen in Yonkers; at St. Elizabeth Hospital, formerly in northern Manhattan; at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn; at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Manhattan; and at Our Lady of Mercy Hospital in the Bronx;

We congratulate these 11 Sisters on their milestones
and thank them for their combined 725 years of dedicated service.

We rejoice in their achievements and are grateful
for all the lives they touched over the decades.

Ad multos annos!