

Sisters of the Holy Family - 2018 Jubilarians

75 years

Sister Geraldine Garbarino

As I celebrate 75 years as a Sister of the Holy Family, my gratitude goes to my family whose example inspired and supported me throughout my many years of religious education and pastoral care. I was inspired to join the Sisters of the Holy Family by my sister, Adrian, who had joined five years earlier. Now I take each day.

Of all my years in religious education, I so loved my 17 years at the Alameda Naval Air Station where I worked with many chaplains. I was Director of Religious Education, and we taught many children and adults. One highlight during this time was the commissioning of the ship, the U.S.S. Enterprise. Another highlight was the two glass windows that were dedicated, one to my parents and the other to the CCD class.

“It is only in the giving of oneself to others that we truly live.” – Ethel Percy Andrus.



70 years

Sister Dorothy Schmedinghoff



In 1991, having worked many years with Veena Roesler setting up the Best House for weddings, my ministry took me to the small, historical gold mining town of Nevada City, California and to the parish of St. Canice.

What a treat! This was the first time, after 50 years in our Community, where I would live, work, and socialize full-time in one parish. Shortly after my

arrival, a new priest was installed as pastor — a progressive, fun, open to the Spirit — Father James McKnight.

Since the religion program was fairly small, I could spend time in a variety of ministries: home visiting; “training” a choir and playing the organ for Mass; bringing Communion (many times with Father) to seniors who were unable to come to Mass, and offering Communion when Father was not available; and my favorite, adult Bible Study.

I so enjoyed being there—I spent 10 years in this pleasant, enriching environment. Thank you to Father McKnight and to the St. Canice community.

Sister Lucille Hintze

In the 1980s, I lived and worked in St. Elizabeth’s Parish in Oakland; the people there were hardworking and generous. I loved helping the people in that community and the surrounding neighborhoods.



While I taught religious education to public school students, I truly appreciated my collaboration with the Mission San Jose Dominican Sisters who taught the elementary and secondary Catholic school students. We had a great partnership and helped each other in many ways.

I enjoyed living and working in this great parish, St. Elizabeth’s.

60 years

Sister Laetitia Rossi

Being a Sister is my love. I never thought of being anything else. A woman makes a commitment to religious life for God, not for the job. Everything else follows.



I have served in many ministries over the years, but for a few years religious education ministry brought me to parishes in Reno, Fallon and Gardnerville, Nevada. I spent time traveling to and from each community every week. Spending nights with parishioners in their homes, I got to know their families very well. Spending time with the parishioners brought me a great deal of joy, as did living in Community with several of our Sisters in Reno. It was simply the best! I will never forget those years.

Sister Elaine Marie Sanchez

“Life is an adventure; it’s not a package tour.” – Eckhart Tolle



This quote certainly describes my 60 years as a Sister of the Holy Family. All my years have blessed and challenged me in unexpected ways. Two early experiences impacted me so deeply that it influenced all other ministry experiences.

My first memorable experience was in Las Vegas, Nevada working at Divine Providence Day Home with a predominantly Black community at the time of the Civil Rights debate taking place in our country. It was this loving community that helped me understand the injustices they had and were still living with. They invited me into their lives, and encouraged me to be a witness for the values we embrace as we marched together for Civil Rights during this important time.

Second was my ministry at Holy Family Day Home in the heart of the Mission District in San Francisco. At the time we were serving a large immigration population, many from El Salvador. I was invited to participate in a delegation to San Salvador to accompany refugees back to their villages. This experience gave me a glimpse into the fear and danger they lived with daily, as well as the depth of their faith and the hope they placed in a loving God as they worked for social justice.

How could these experiences *not* help shape all my future ministries in Alaska, Nevada, and, of course, California. So the adventure continues on;

there is not enough space to share stories of the many amazing people who have been, and continue to be, a part of this fantastic journey.

Sister M. Andrea Rangel

One of my favorite ministries was teaching people liturgical music for the Spanish Eucharist Celebrations. I loved working directly with people in places like San Antonio, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah. I helped to start choirs to sing for the Spanish Masses. One of my favorite hymns is for Our Lady of Guadalupe, *Buenos Días, Paloma Blanca* (in English, *Fairest Dove, Most Lovely Maiden*) which I have sung since I was a little girl.



My favorite Masses are always when *everyone* in church sings, not just the choir. I tried to make the parish a welcoming place for *all*. No matter where people come from, music makes them comfortable and so they feel at home. It has always been a joy to help make that happen.

Sister M. Michaela O'Connor



Deciding which ministry has been my favorite is really difficult. I've enjoyed them all, and the ministry in which I was engaged at the moment was always my favorite.

The one I have enjoyed the longest is with the Kmhmu' people of Southeast Asia, immigrants to this country, whom I am proud to call friends. Just a few years ago, Father Don MacKinnon and I realized that about 20 of our faithful Catholic Kmhmu' adults had never received Confirmation; we organized some classes and a Retreat. Bishop John Cummins came to celebrate the Sacrament. Not only did he extend his hands in blessing, but went to each candidate and placed his hands on each head for the petition to the Holy

Spirit. At the sign of peace he shook each hand and had a pastoral word for every individual. It was as if the Holy Spirit had brought the gleaners alive in our midst, showing the new Catholics that they were each esteemed in God's eyes, honored in their simplicity and poverty; every one of them a precious grain in the Harvest of God.

Our charism of seeking out and advocating for the poor, especially poor families, is not for us alone. It is given as a gift, assisting us to build up the Holy Family of God. Sharing those ideals, and the work growing out of that conviction with like-minded laity and clergy, has always brought me great excitement and joy, a dose of humility, and proof of the tender care of God for us all.