

Newsletter

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In this issue

An interview with Marian Schaefer Smith

Sister Anna Louise Staub

Following up on an article in the daily paper reaped innumerable pleasures for me. Carol Ritter described the celebration of a 100th birthday of Marian Schaefer Smith, who had received her grammar school education at St. Augustine's School.

When I called Carol to inquire how I might contact this woman, she generously gave me the phone number of her niece, Ann Schaefer O'Brien, who is currently living in Victor. In talking to Anne, I discovered I had taught her at St. Monica's. She was happy to make a date for me to see her Aunt Marian. As a result, my centennial co-writer, Vicki Schmitt, and I planned to meet Anne and her husband at 1600 East Avenue where Marian has lived for 10 years.

We expected to meet a decrepit woman whom we would have to interrogate gently. Surprise! Here was a tall, erect, virile woman whose voice was strong and vibrant. When I introduced her to Vicki she remarked about Vicki's German surname.

I said to her, "My last name is as German as they come. I'm Sister



Marian Schaefer Smith, 100, spoke recently with Sister Anna Louise Staub about St. Augustine's.

Anna Louise Staub."

She reacted immediately. "Did you know Ray Staub?"

"Ray was my brother," I responded.

The two of them had been in the same graduating class at St. Augustine's.

Marian told us about the little frame schoolhouse that was set in a muddy field. It was erected in 1898 and served as a Mission Chapel on Sunday, where priests from the Cathedral would offer the Mass.

After the Eucharist, men removed the pews and arranged desks and

chairs for the children to occupy during the school week. The large room had a folding door which provided for two classrooms. Students from St. Bernard's taught religion classes on Sunday afternoon in the school set-up.

The school began with 23 students. As new settlers occupied the area, the school registration increased. In 1904, the first two grades were taught in a large red house on the corner of Chili and Sherwood Avenues, next to a vacant lot. A store now occupies the lot, and a garage has replaced the house.

In 1906, St. Augustine's was made a parochial church with Rev. John H. O'Brien as pastor. Almost immediately, Father built a new church-school complex with a three story annex attached to the rear of the building. The second floor accommodated a lovely church, while the first floor was partitioned into six classrooms. The annex with its own private staircase housed the first, seventh, and eighth grades.

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Miracle of Sharing update

The Diocese of Rochester has sent us a check for \$60,112.13 as the latest payment of funds raised in the Miracle of Sharing campaign. The check reflects money raised from January through March 1997. Cumulative payments to our Congregation now total \$1,083,243.

This year we will not be receiving grant money from the National Retirement drive. The Rochester diocese gave us \$443,203 in 1996, which is more



Sister Patricia Sullivan

than we would have been entitled to for that year from the national drive.

After our last Shared Futures day, some Sisters asked, "What is the Miracle of Sharing campaign?" We have often referred to this as the Diocesan campaign for retirement needs of women religious.

Actually, the campaign, begun in 1992, has five objectives: to enhance programs in faith development, parish services and social ministries through donations made to the Thanksgiving Appeal; to financial-

ly assist families wishing to send their children to Catholic schools; to support and develop lay ministry; to provide for the living needs of women religious in their retirement years; to create a Bishop's discretionary fund from which the Bishop may direct money to any area of the Miracle of Sharing campaign. Presently the Bishop is distributing 83.3% of this fund to the women religious retirement objective.

We are grateful to those who have generously volunteered their time to work on the Miracle of Sharing campaign and to those who have generously contributed financially.

An interview

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Marian remarked that **Sister Anna Marie Hynes** was the sole teacher at the founding of the school. **Sister Regina Flaherty** actually founded the school in 1898, stayed for about a month, then proceeded to St. Monica's to organize a school on Genesee Street, where she remained as principal. Sister Anna Marie was given charge of St. Augustine's.

Marian still remembers Sister Anna Marie with great affection. I asked what was so special about her. The reply was that she was kind and caring and we all loved her. What a

beautiful reminiscence! I am sure that each of us teachers hopes we are remembered so lovingly.

Marian recalled two lay teachers in the course of her schooling: Miss Lavin (1909-1914) and Miss Burgess (1909-1917). In the seventh grade Marian had **Sister Aidan**, while **Sister Melita Rafferty** taught her in the eighth grade.



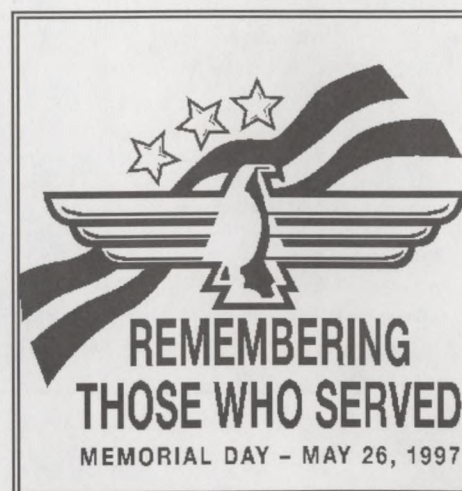
Marian Schaefer Smith

The sisters lived at St. Mary's Asylum on West Main Street and made their way down Chili Avenue twice a day in order to teach at the school. It was, at the

least, a 20 minute walk and in winter must have been a monumental task with long habits, galoshes, shawls, and school bags loaded with books and lunch. Martyrs have suffered from fire and sword. Those early sisters proved their heroism in the day-

to-day encounter with the rigors of nature.

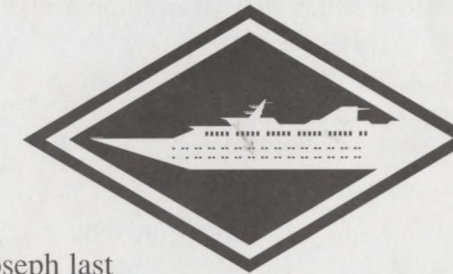
I returned to 1600 East Avenue for another visit. I asked **Sister Mary Anne Laurer** to accompany me and take some pictures for our St. Augustine's Centennial celebration. Marian was in great form and expressed the desire that we would not forget where she lived and the route to her apartment complex in the days to come.



News

Setting sail, once again

Office for Communications



Sixteen people cruised the Caribbean for the Sisters of St. Joseph last March. The trip proved to be a success for the Congregation in two ways —we raised new funds and new friends.

Plans are now underway for next year's cruise, and we need your help. (Please. You know how we hate to beg.)

A Cruise Night has been scheduled for 7 p.m. on **June 25** at the Motherhouse for those interested in learning more about this trip. *Please encourage family, friends and acquaintances to attend.*

The cruise is set for March 7-14 of 1998, and will include a tour of the Southern Caribbean with stops in San Juan, Catalina Island, Barbados, Martinique, Antigua and St. Thomas.

Call **Sister Carole Proia** at 865-9861 to let her know of any coming to Cruise Night, or for more information about the cruise.



Sisters Rose Irene and Frances Raphael (deceased) **Reisdorf**— sister, Elizabeth Reisdorf

Agregée Anne Meyer-Wilber— mother, Mildred L. (Crane) Meyer

Save the date

Sister Kay Heverin

The Eucharist Commission is sponsoring a day with **Sister Kitty Hanley, SSJ** on Saturday, **December 6** at the Motherhouse. (The time is yet to be determined).

The day is meant to give us another opportunity to reflect on the place of Eucharist in our lives. Kitty will do two or three presentations, with time for table discussion.

Details will come in the fall, but we wanted you to have the date on your calendar now.

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Keuka Days is sponsored by Parish Support Ministries of the Diocese. Sisters in pastoral ministry have received this information. We decided to call it to the attention of others who may be interested. Theme: 'A Eucharistic People Living a Eucharistic Life'; Dates: **August 18, 19, 20** (Monday to Wednesday); Place: Keuka College; Featured speakers: Bishop Matthew Clark, Bernard Cooke, and Monsignor William Shannon.

There will also be many workshops and mini-sessions on a variety of topics.

If interested call the Diocesan Office at 328-3210.

Reminders

✓ **June Assembly** — Please plan for 6:30 - 9 p.m. on Friday **June 6**, and 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, **June 7**.

The Eucharist will be celebrated at the Motherhouse at 8 a.m. on Saturday for those who wish to attend.

✓ There will be no *Newsletter* on May 30.

Letting your light shine: Progre\$\$ive Credit Union to provide grants

- First there was the Progre\$\$ive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union.

- Then there was the developing Youth Credit Union.

- And now there is the Individual Development Account Task Force.



Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley

You might describe **Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley** as the spark plug, igniting the efforts of hundreds of people and dozens of organizations in creating the credit union. The organization now serves more than 700 members in Rochester's inner city with more than \$1,000,000 in assets.

The developing Youth Credit Union is currently a program of Progre\$\$ive. The intent is to eventually have youth comprising their

own board and other committees. The program includes financial instruction by a trained corps of parent volunteers, and is based around weekly deposits by participating students.

The Individual Development Account is designed to increase the number of city school students going on to higher education.

The task force will sign contracts with students, to match the first \$500 of students savings at Progre\$\$ive toward higher education.

Funding for the task force will come from grants pledged by sponsoring organizations, including credit unions. The first pledges are already in hand, and again a sizable group of individuals representing a wide variety of community organizations is donating time and effort to developing the program.

Credit unions and individuals interested in pledging grants can contact Sister Beth about the program care of Progre\$\$ive Federal Credit Union.

Let your light shine!

Office for Communications

Send us your stories. If you have received an award, please let us know. If you have any lighthearted story to share, about yourself or someone else, pass it on.

We would like to publish stories in *Newsletter* and/or *Bridge*. You can send a note or call the response line and leave a message, (586-1000, ext. 131).

What's on Your Mind...

Death penalty just begets more violence

The death penalty means that a human being, alive, thinking, feeling and walking at one minute, is dead at our hands within a few minutes.

It has not proven to prevent crime, and vio-



Sister Francis Cecilia English

lence begets more violence. The death penalty is more costly than life imprisonment. It is discriminatory because the rich and powerful can afford clever, expensive lawyers which the poor cannot. In case of a mistake, it cannot be remedied. Please help to avoid taking anyone's life in my name.

This letter appeared in the May 4 issue of the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle.

Merging Two Worlds

Sister Elaine Hollis

The "Merging Two Worlds," conference will be held September 21-23 at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

I have been involved in the preparation of this conference for a year now, as part of my ministry with people who have developmental disabilities at Monroe Developmental Center.

The keynote speaker will be Parker Palmer. Sister Patricia Schoelles will also be speaking about the moral obligation we have to include those with disabilities in our church congregations.

I would just like to encourage those involved in a parish, liturgy preparation, hospitality, social ministry committees or religious education to participate.