



Sister Diana Dolce – 50 Years

“As a 5 year old, I was absolutely certain that I wanted to be a teacher. While attending First Friday Mass in 3rd grade, I had the thought that God wanted me to be a Sister of St. Joseph. What a blessing that for 48 of my last 50 years, I have been able to be both.

“I was fortunate enough to be sent out to teach 4th Grade at Nazareth Hall right after I completed my novitiate training. From there, my teaching took me to St. Joseph’s Villa, Nazareth Academy, St. Ambrose and St. Charles Borromeo schools. The children who drew out the best in me and kept me from being simply a “presenter of information,” were the children who struggled most with learning.

“In 1977, I began developing strategies that helped children who learn differently. I not only taught wonderful students, but I also began to give workshops and training to teachers.

“In 1993, God gave me the ultimate gift and opportunity to learn the real meaning of faith.

“The Sisters of St. Joseph were founded to be women who dared to do all things to meet unmet needs. Helping children who learn differently meet with educational success has been a huge unmet need in the Greater Rochester area for decades.

“Just before Jesus left this earth, He challenged His disciples to believe in Him and to believe in miracles. That was His plan for getting things done through us. Believing in miracles demands faith, and faith is never based on ‘sure bets’ or ‘known for certain’ outcomes.

“Starting Hope Hall 23 years ago to meet the educational needs of children who learn differently has been God’s greatest gift to me, honing every talent I have as a teacher, every value I hold as a Sister of St. Joseph, and every ounce of faith and belief in miracles to which I cling.

“Watching God touch the hearts and generosity of men and women to help create and sustain the school name Hope for the sake of children whom most of them will never meet, has helped me to know what it means to “walk by faith and not by sight,” and this has made all the difference in my life.”