



Sister Phyllis Tierney (formerly Sister Vincentia) – 60 Years

When Sister Phyllis Tierney, formerly Sister Vincentia, entered the Congregation in 1959 she expected to wear a habit, teach in school, and live in community for the rest of her life. “Vatican II changed many of our external religious practices,” found Sister Phyllis, “But it also brought profound changes in the way we lived our religious life and ministered to others. For the first time I became exposed to the great injustices in the world around me: poverty, racism, emotionally deprived children, and hunger here in our own backyards. The various ministries I have experienced have led me to serve as Justice Coordinator for the Congregation since 2006.”

Sister’s home parish is St. Joseph’s in Weedsport, NY. Her first years as a Sister of Saint Joseph were spent as a teacher at St. Patrick’s in Seneca Falls and St. Mary’s in Canandaigua. However, new experiences at St. Joseph’s Villa and as Director of Religious Education in Hannibal, NY led to social work and pastoral ministry at St. Pius Tenth in Greensboro, NC.

Understanding the plight of undocumented immigrants has been a more recent focus for Sister Phyllis. She visited Honduras in 2016 and has volunteered at the U.S.-Mexico border in El Paso, TX through Annunciation House.