



Sister Virginia Schmitz

Sister Virginia Schmitz (formerly Sister Loyola) would have celebrated 70 years as a Sister of Saint Joseph in 2022. During her last Jubilee celebration in 2012, Sister Virginia had this to say, “I don't think there has ever been a day in this journey of 60 years that I haven't thanked God for the call to be a Sister of Saint Joseph.”

Sister spoke about what called her to religious life, saying, “I think the Vocation seed was planted and nourished when I was taught by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in Grammar School and in whom I saw and encountered Sisters who portrayed to us what the SSJ spirit is all about – the spirit of love, peace and joy, the spirit of gentleness, patience and compassion, which I so loved and admired.”

Sister Virginia spent 11 years in education, teaching at St. Michael, Penn Yan; and Sacred Heart and Mother of Sorrows in Rochester. She then went to Brazil to work as pastoral agent in the SSJ mission. Back in Rochester she was a pastoral assistant at St. Paul in Oswego before becoming a case manager at School of the Holy Childhood. Sister Virginia then went on to serve as Chaplain in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Strong Memorial Hospital for over 15 years. She retired from the hospital in 2015 and spent her final years in the prayer ministry.