



Sister Sienna Cameron – 70 Years

“As a recent graduate of Mercy High School and parishioner of St. James Parish, Irondequoit, I joined the Sisters of Saint Joseph in 1952,” says Sister Sienna Cameron.

“I was taught by the Sisters of Saint Joseph in grammar school. In these women I saw an aura of peacefulness, a quiet gentleness, prayerfulness and dedication. Even then I thought, ‘Someday I want to be one of them.’

“Teaching school-age children five to 12-year-olds for 12 years and then moving on to secretarial support services was challenging. My first assignment was in the SSJ Public Relations/Communications Office. Sister Mary John Van Atta and I did our own photography— from picture taking to developing; content and

layout of publications, *Dialogue and Contact*; a weekly Congregational Newsletter and an updated version of the Congregational ‘Mug Book,’ a photo album of all our Sisters.

“In 1979 I joined the staff in the Social Ministry Department for the Diocese of Rochester. Being the support person for very dedicated men and women (Father Bill Spilly, Lourdes Perez-Albuerne and many others), working with and for the most vulnerable in our society was rewarding.

“The privilege of traveling to Rome with Bishop Clark in 1983, celebrating Mass with him at the tomb of St. Peter and walking with him to the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, where the body of St. Catherine of Sienna is buried, is one of the most memorable moments I have as a Sister of Saint Joseph.

“Living as a Sister of Saint Joseph has been a great blessing for me. I have benefitted from the love, support, challenges and understanding of my Sisters in community. I have learned the value of working together with those having the same goals and vision, trusting that God will always grace our way.”