



CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Celebrating Traditions
Changing the World

March 8-14, 2021

Alumnae who follow the Nazareth Academy Alumnae Page on Facebook were asked to share their favorite memory of a Sister from their time at Nazareth. The responses were numerous and touching. It's clear that alumnae are grateful indeed for the impact of the Sisters of Saint Joseph!

Let's join them in gratitude for the Sisters who Change the World.

Many thanks to Sr. Maria Elena Mariani, SSJ, for copying these quotes into this document!

Mary Rose Bianchi Sr Cora Marie was my home room teacher and my music teacher who I had all four years. Sr Elaine Englert my best friend growing up. Junior High and The Academy.

Therese Herlihy All of the Sisters are the best, but my favorite was Sr Maria Pacelli. She always had a kind word and asked how I was doing. When I'd visit my grandparents, my granddad always seemed to know what I was doing in school. I found out (a long time later!) that Sr Maria Pacelli knew my grandparents & watched my dad & aunt grow up!

Patrice Pallone It hardly seems like a year has passed since the class of 1968 celebrated our 50th reunion. We owe much appreciation to Nazareth Academy graduates/former faculty members Maria Elena Mariani Ssj

Elaine Englert & (as always) Cora Marie. Their efforts (often behind the scenes), dedication & enthusiasm have helped keep the Nazareth spirit alive!

Loraine Plummer I graduated in 1949!! I am now a mom of 6, and widow! Cherish all you learn at Nazareth!! Wonderful school! my oldest daughter graduated from there also. Jeanne Plummer!!

Mary Speranza Yes! Wonderful memories! So many. Sr. Cora Marie was also my home room teacher in 9th grade. Sr. Elaine Englert was a great principal, Sr. Carol Cimino was so easy to talk to when I had a problem. Sr. Rita! Their are so many that touched all of our lives when we're at the Academy on Lake Avenue.

Linda Engel Decker Hi everyone. These are from the May festival at Nazareth in 1972....a long time ago. Sister Dora at the table and Sister Laurel in the lovely hat were two of my favorite people at Nazareth. I also had a special place on my heart for Sister Jeanine (sp). I miss those days.

Therese Herlihy All of the Sisters are the best, but my favorite was Sr Maria Pacelli. She always had a kind word and asked how I was doing. When I'd visit my grandparents, my granddad always seemed to know what I was doing in school. I found out (a long time later!) ...

Kris P. Bacon Sr. Magdalena was always one of my favorites! When I would visit after graduation, I always made sure to stop in and see her. I visited before she passed and brought my kids with me and it was so wonderful to see her face light up that my daughter was taking Spanish and was so well at it! I miss her so much.



Patricia LaManna Sr. Elizabeth Anne LeValley taught me theology & "Super Nun" is still going strong! Sr. Annunciata taught my mother for 4 years (ma graduated in 1939) & when I got to the Academy, she insisted I was Frances! I tried to correct her but you can imagine how that went. Graduation night she hands me my diploma & says (through her teeth!) "You're not Frances! You're Patricia!" I smiled & returned to my seat. My 1st day out at Nazareth College, who do I run into? None other than the new fund raiser, Sr. Annunciata. She shook her finger at me (smiling) & said "I'll never forget you, Patricia. And welcome to your new Nazareth home."

Patricia LaManna I was terrified of Sr. Annunciata during my 4 years of high school but at the college she would seek me out every once in a while to talk over "old times" & make sure I was doing alright at the college. She always propped me up there if I needed it. I miss those days sometimes.

Connie Christine Giliberti

I have many wonderful memories while I was at Nazareth..My favorite memory of a sister was Sr. Janine, and Sr. Anthony..Sr. Anthony was my Home Ec teacher who taught me many things like crocheting which to this day I still do, and Sr. Janine was my 11th grade home room teacher and became the VP my senior year..I was working part time and paying my own tuition and I couldn't

Come up with the \$50.00 Senior Fee and I went crying to her asking her for help and she waived the fee..She also called me her cover girl because I was on the year book cover my Jr. year which would of been the 72-73 school year..I truly loved these two Sisters and loved my years at Nazareth..class of 74

Lorie Beyrle Brown My favorite teacher was Sister Maria Pacelli. She made class interesting. I remember Sister Patricia would charge us 15 cents if she caught us chewing gum or yawning in class. She said it went to her stocking fund.

Leigh Barker Privitere My favorite teacher was Sister Margaret Brennan. She taught film class during the 70's. Always a delight. Such a big heart.

Teresa Fiermonte yes! I could not remember her name. King Kong was her favorite movie

Natasa Popovic Our dear Sister Magdalena was a wonderful Spanish teacher who cared about us beyond the classroom walls and even long after we graduated. We had our regular reunions, and I was so happy to have her meet my children. Now a Spanish teacher myself, I always remember her kindness and dedication to her students.



Sonia Gioia replied But Sr Cora Marie seems to be the winner. My favorite was Sr Mary Kevin. She came across as being mean but was a sweetheart. May she rip. She wrote my recommendation letter for St John Fisher College.

MaryJo Viavattene no winners or losers here, just an opportunity to share our positive experiences during a difficult time in a teenagers life.

Jean Kase **Donna Cucci** I have such wonderful memories of Perosian Choir! Thank you ❤️

Donna Cucci Thank you so much! I have wonderful memories too!!!!

Sr Marilyn Pray

Jean Kase - I know that her religion class helped me grow in faith and develop a personal relationship with God. Thank you ❤️



Mary Jo Cerretto Provenzano Sr Maria, she encouraged me in Chemistry. Don't know how she did it, over 45 students in a tiered 317 classroom.

Sister Jeremita (Sr Joan McDowell) was the foundation for my love of history.

Sr. Cora Marie always a smile and a lifelong love of the alumnae. Memories of Italian class for 3 years and everyone wishing they were in HR 106

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Karen Vane Ragan Sister Margaret Brennan opened our eyes to possibilities via her love of film. Always enjoyed her class and her personality. She loved hearing everyone's perspective of the films shown in her class. That is where I realized the significance of Citizen Kane. Thanks so much for opening my eyes to the world! Also, Sr. Elizabeth Anne LaValley - she had a way of making you feel comfortable and allowing you to grow within your beliefs and convictions, and a wicked sense of humor! Loved her laugh!!

Connie Christine Giliberti

Karen Vane Ragan I remember her and watching that movie in film class. Every time I see that movie makes me think of how she taught us to break down certain aspects of the movie and the significance of what the director was telling us..

Antonietta Lopez Bovenzi Sr. Cora Marie and Sr. Magdalena

Marie Bellavia The SSJs taught me feminism and social justice. Sr. Beatrice Ganley introduced me to Gwendolyn Brooks and Nikki Giovanni. Sr. Eileen Broad taught me songs that I still sing today as well as so many poems that I asked for a copy of the class text (which I have to this day). Sr Joan McDowell, Asian-African Studies, who taught me the terms "ethnocentrism" and "culture shock." Sr Cora Marie who always had a smile and a cheerful hello to all of us hormonal teens in Freshman hall. Sr Marilyn Pray, for so much more than will fit here. She told me once that during class change when she stood by the window in Senior hall that she prayed. When I asked her what was her prayer, she said, "Oh God!." As a teacher for the past 30 years, it's the prayer I often say in and out of the classroom!

Connie Christine Giliberti replied I, too, sing many of those songs to my grandkids..

Marie Bellavia And Sr Magdalena! I couldn't get into Latin my freshman year or Italian, so I signed up for Spanish for the year until there was an opening the next year. I took Spanish for four years and never looked back. Sr Magdalena was a cheerfully stern instructor who took a bunch of us to Spain. She never seemed to mind when I would stay back from a(nother) church tour so I could practice my Spanish with the bus driver, the gift shop clerk and the security guards.



Sister Donna Marie who worked with us in Perosian Choir, the Choral Bells, and all the musicals. I loved that music room!

Sr Susan Nowak, who introduced me to the notion that Jesus was a feminist, with citations, no less. Sr. Kathleen Weider who facilitated debates in Morality class about all the Big Topics and helped me clarify my own beliefs.

Michelle Elizabeth Sister Damian, she loved us all, whether you were in her class or not. She was sure to get to know everyone in the building. She had a great sense of humor too!

Betsy McDonald Forjone Sister Elaine Englert-our principal at the Academy. One of the kindest human beings I have ever known. Sister continues to support and love us all through her work planning our reunions. It's always a joy to see her. And she does not age 🍷😊

Linda Rmg Sister Margaret Brendan was such an amazing woman. She touched my life from the time I was a young teenager until I was in my sixties. She always saw the good in everyone and always let them know how special they were. I feel blessed to have known her.

- **Michelle Elizabeth** Sister Damian, she loved us all, whether you were in her class or not. She was sure to get to know everyone in the building. She had a great sense of humor too!

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Rita Pettinaro There are toooo many great memories. Sister Cora Marie. Forever in my heart.

Joan Nageldinger Sister Ramon (Mary Lee Bishop) who became a lifelong friend after sophomore homeroom. Sister Anne Mary who taught me Briefhand on the side because I had no opening in my schedule to take her class. Sister St. Dorothy who cemented my love for Latin. Sister Demetria who gave us all candy bars during the Regents American History Exam, and entertained us with stories of "her boys" at Aquinas. Sister Annunciata who went to school with my Uncle Vic and who watched me like a hawk. Sister Maria with the patience and determination of a saint in chemistry class. Sister Cora Marie who let me hang out in her homeroom in the mornings before my Homeroom Teacher arrived. She probably was, and is, the "coolest" of them all. 1960-1964 were the best years because of the humanity and dedication of the woman of Nazareth who devoted their lives to shaping ours.

Karen Rinebold Johnson My high school years were extremely hard for me for a myriad of reasons and mostly forgotten. However I would have to say it was Sr. Elaine Englert. I only had her my senior year and it isn't so much what she did but more of what she took. She took all my teenage angst without judgment, Years later, she wondered why I seemed to have "hated" her, but the truth is that she was my saving grace back then. Thank you Sr. Elaine!

Kim Reeves Detro WOW! There are TOO many! Class of '83!.. Sr. Magdelana, Sr. Elaine, Sr. Mary Ann Mayer! They ALL were a part of my Journey to the REST of MY LIFE!!!! I went on to be a T.A. at Naz. Hall, So I also enjoyed the friendship of.. Sr. Mary Kay LaRock, Sr. Rosina, Sr. Ann D'Assisi Sr. Mary Ann Laurer!Etc!!! ALL SPECIAL & AWESOME!!!!

LuAnne Milano Who was the Spanish teacher in 68-71?

Jean Castania Actually there were 3. Sr. Rose Teresa (Perosian Choir) taught me how to care for the voice God gave me and to use it for His praise; Sr. Ursula (Office Practice) taught me how to be independent and self-confident in the working world; and of course, dear sweet beloved Sr. Cora Marie. I was fortunate to have her freshman homeroom and 3 years of Italian. (Sorry Sister, I never spoke it outside the classroom but could understand my grandfather better!) Sr. Cora left a lasting impression on me to be proud to be a Nazareth

Academy girl and appreciate the sacrifice it was for my parents to send me to a private school to this day, I am grateful and proud to say I am a Nazareth girl! God has given me many blessings!

Debbie Scarpulla Sister Maria Pacelli. She was so funny. And a shoutout to sister Elaine Englert also from holy apostles! She always had a smile on her face!

Fran Bailey Sr. Cora Marie... there are not enough words to describe the positive influence she had on me. Such a kind, loving person who was always there for her students. She will always live in a special place in my heart. God bless her!

Melanie Wollke Wagner Sr.Dora - Biology teacher - 1972? I think.It was her first year teaching. We had so much fun with her! I loved her.



Elizabeth Escarraz Sister Jean Marie my piano teacher. She was such a kind person and very patient. I still have my notebooks and music with her notations in it.

MaryAnn T. McCullough Douglas Sr John Mary a/k/a Ruth Magin. Her confidence in me to do a special project, helped me acquire self-confidence. The memory of her kindness & concern still touches my heart.

Penny Mathers Colombo Sr Marie Jose who taught German is most memorable nun and teacher I had in 12 years of catholic education!

Barbara Bates Stanley I never had her for any classes but Sr. Ruth became a friend and someone I could go

Karolyn Saetta Sisters Sr. Diane, sr Magdelana, sr Elaine Englert '86

Amy Brauch Class of 1984.... Sr Beverly taught me how to play the flute (every time I made a mistake, I stopped and said "oh God" and she didn't like that so I told her I was asking Him for help!), Sr Ruth used to call me by my mom's name - she went there 21 years ahead of me, Sr Dora was a great biology teacher! Great memories ❤️

Kathy Gentile-Farrell Many of the sisters had a profound effect on my life. During those tumultuous years, the Academy was a refuge. Sister Susan Nowak was so kind, and taught me to have confidence in skills I didn't know I had, and was a constant reminder to keep Jesus in my heart as He was always with me. Sister Ruth taught me not only office skills, but how prayer is truly a conversation with God. Sister Marilyn Pray opened up a big world outside of my own, and her urging to write letters via Amnesty International brought that home to me. Sister Carol Cimino listened, urged and pushed me to succeed, and as I walked across the stage at Eastman Theater to accept my diploma smiled at me and said, "I always knew you'd be here". I am forever grateful.

Debbie Platt My favorite Nun was Sister Ruth. She was a blessing to me. She was not only a wonderful teacher, she was always there for me when I needed an ear or a hug.

Katherine Rivera-Quiñones Sister Donna Cucci - amazing just loved her energy, her charisma, and encouragement! And Sister Cora Marie was my home room teacher and never forgets anyone's name just LOVE her! Sister Elaine wonderful and very supportive and Sister Magdalena for Spanish one of the most memorable classes!

All the Sister went above and beyond. I am a strong woman, a leader not a follower because of all I learned in Nazareth!!!!

Sally Griffith McMahon There were so many sisters who taught me so much. Sister Magdalena comes to mind first. I was a teacher at Nazareth Academy. Sister Elaine, Sister Carol, Sister Cora Marie. They helped me be a stronger person and opened my eyes to issues locally and nationally. I learned so much from their examples. Words cannot express my gratitude for all that I learned from them and others at NA.



Eight Sisters of Saint Joseph work at Nazareth Elementary today, and one Sister of Mercy.