



SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH
OF ROCHESTER

Back to French Road... the journey continues:

The journey began in LePuy, France in 1650, when a small group of French women came together to live a life of prayerful community in active ministry to God's people.

It continued after the sufferings of the French Revolution as Sisters of St. Joseph, the "Congregation of the great love of God," spread throughout France and beyond.

In 1850, a small band set out from France and came to Carondelet, Missouri. In 1854, four of these Sisters were called to Canandaigua.

From here, this little community grew and flourished throughout NY State, into Alabama, and finally Brazil.

Every step of this journey has been made in faith, with God's grace and the help of their patron, St. Joseph, their families, friends, co-workers, benefactors, and one another.

Now another major step of this journey is under way, and the strength for it will continue to come from those same sources.



House on Saltonstall Street, Canandaigua

1854

Four Sisters of St. Joseph came from Carondelet, Missouri, to Canandaigua, New York, to live out their mission with the people of western New York.

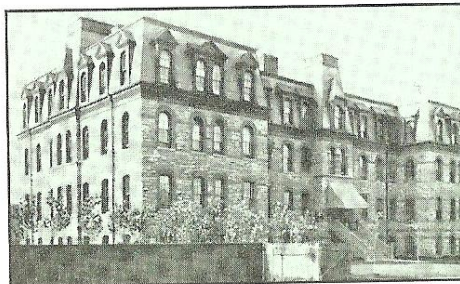
A house on Saltonstall street was the first home of the Sisters of St. Joseph in this area, all of which was then the Diocese of Buffalo

This house also served as an orphanage, a school for young ladies, a clinic, and the Motherhouse and Novitiate.

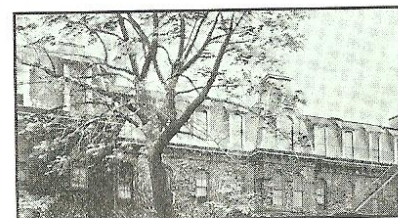
1864

Four other Sisters came to Rochester to open St. Mary's Boys' Home, which grew rapidly and, in 1868, moved to a large building on what is now West Main Street.

St. Mary's Boys' Home



In that same year, the Buffalo Diocese was divided, with the eastern section becoming the Diocese of Rochester. Twelve Sisters of St. Joseph chose to remain in this area, moving their Motherhouse and Novitiate to St. Mary's Boys' Home.



St. Patrick's Girls' Home

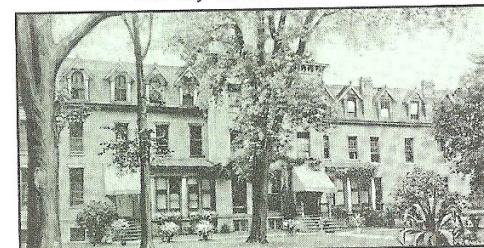
1869

The Sisters of St. Joseph were next asked to take over the direction of St. Patrick's Home for Girls, which also included a small "private school" and a "free school." The Motherhouse and Novitiate were again moved, this time to St. Patrick's, but soon also outgrew this space.

1871

A large house on Jay Street was purchased specifically to serve as the Motherhouse and Novitiate, with an added wing, to house the "private school" (which eventually became the Nazareth Schools of today).

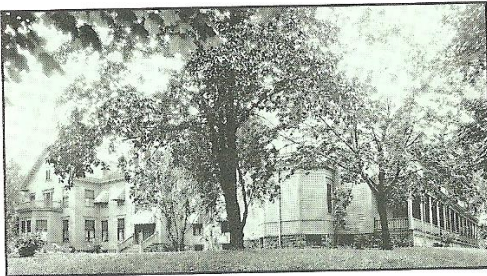
The Jay Street Convent and Academy



At this time, the Congregation was incorporated as Nazareth Academy and Convent.

1898

The Sisters built the Nazareth Normal School on Augustine Street for the training of its members as teachers, and in 1920, a section of this building became the Motherhouse and Novitiate.



Nazareth Normal School on Augustine Street

1926

With difficulty and sacrifice, the Congregation purchased land on East Avenue in Pittsford, and in 1926, they broke ground there for the new Motherhouse, which included an Infirmary, Novitiate, and Normal School.

1916

The present Nazareth Academy building on Lake Avenue was constructed to house the private school, and eight years later, Nazareth College was founded in a separate building on this same property.

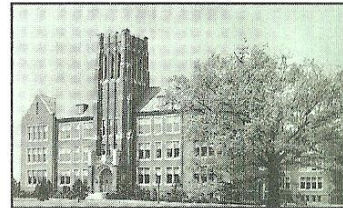
1928

The Sisters moved to this East Avenue location, and the College was re-located in temporary quarters at the former Normal School on Augustine Street



For over 70 years, this Motherhouse has been a center for their life as a community .

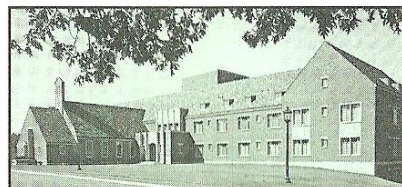
1939 The Sisters purchased land adjacent to the Motherhouse grounds in order to build new accommodations for the College, and in 1942, classes began in the new buildings.



*Nazareth
College of
Rochester -
1942*

1960

The Congregation built a new Infirmary behind the Motherhouse.



St. Joseph Convent & Infirmary

1964

Nazareth College became an independent corporation totally separate from the Sisters of St. Joseph. In 1965, the Congregation deeded to the College the eleven buildings then existing on the campus plus the 52 acres on which these buildings stood.



*Potential site for
new SSJ Community Life Center*

The statue of St. Joseph, formerly on the Nazareth College grounds, is now on the French Road site of the new facility, waiting for his Sisters to arrive.

For 35 years the Congregation and the College—though separate entities—have remained good neighbors. When the time came that both had new and different space needs, they were able to come to a mutually beneficial agreement.

In 1997, the Congregation entered into a strategic planning process which they called “Creating our Shared Future.”

After much prayer and research—and with amazing peace over the final decision—they decided to sell half of their original property to the College, including the East Avenue frontage and the Motherhouse and Infirmary buildings. They further decided to build a facility more suited to their present and future needs on the back property off French Road.

No one doubts that there will be pain in leaving these beautiful and familiar places, but God is again calling them to move, and St. Joseph is there to lead them. They will respond in faith as they have done throughout their history.