



Sister Margaret Mary Ryan (formerly Sister Julitta) – 60 Years

“God could not have planned my life better,” exclaims Sister Margaret Mary (formerly Sister Julitta) as she reflects on her 60 years as a Sister of Saint Joseph.

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have been a part of Sister Margaret Mary’s life as long as she can remember. Growing up, she lived down the street from St. Augustine Convent and attended school there, and then moved on to St. Agnes High School. There, she especially remembers her teacher Sister Marie Vincent Kimble. “She accepted my free spirit and guided me to enter the Congregation,” says Sister Margaret Mary.

For 32 years Sister was the Director of Food Services at the Motherhouse kitchen preparing and serving meals for over 100 Sisters and any groups that came by. She also started “Sister Margaret Mary’s cookies,” which she delivered to local schools, hospitals, and businesses, and shipped all around the country. “Even though I no longer bake the cookies, to this day people still talk about them and ask for the secret recipe,” says Sister Margaret Mary. The recipe is still a secret!

Sister Margaret Mary also loves animals and over the years has cared for many, including her beloved horses, dogs, and cats. Presently, she helps maintain the physical care of the Motherhouse. During the warmer months, you can find her mowing and trimming, keeping the grounds in good order. “This ministry brings me in direct contact with my lifetime loves, the great outdoors and animals,” she says. In the winter, Sister Margaret Mary heads inside where, among other tasks, she repairs and paints walls. “The best part is that I have freedom as I move through my day to stop and visit the Sisters who may need a little extra kindness. I love to see them smile and brighten up when I drop by.”