



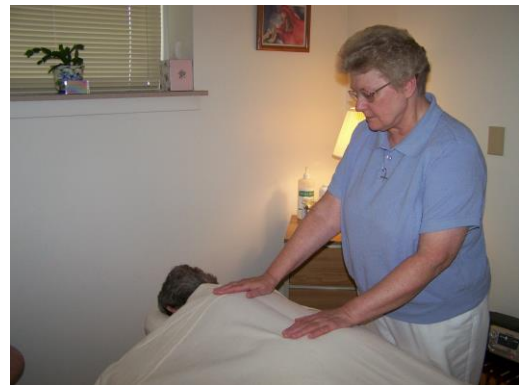
### **Sr. Rosemarie Sommers, MSC**

I was born in Northampton and grew up in Nazareth, PA. When I completed my term in Provincial Leadership in August of 2022, I was offered a sabbatical year. During this time of prayer, rest, and renewal I stayed with my family in Nazareth awaiting my part-time ministry (beginning August 2023) in my home parish of Holy Family where I will live in the garage apartment situated on the church property. My ministry will include spending most of my time in Holy Family School offering my service wherever needed. Our Sisters taught at Holy Family for 70 years and the Sisters who taught me inspired me to enter their MSC community. I had wanted to teach little children just as my first and second grade teachers, Sisters Teresita Nolden and Francine Fehrenbach had taught me.

I often say that I was born to be an MSC. Both of my parents, my brother and sisters, my niece and several nephews, and many uncles, aunts, and cousins were taught by our MSC Sisters at our schools in Nazareth, Coplay, Northampton, and Allentown. Holy Family Parish is staffed by the MSC priests and my uncle, Fr. Frank Timar, entered the MSC's and was ordained in 1958. I professed my First Vows on August 22, 1968 at our Motherhouse in Reading, PA, and had the joy of professing my Final Vows on August 26, 1973 in my home parish of Holy Family.

My years in Provincial Leadership were challenging but also very rewarding. I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know our Sisters and their dedication and commitment to serving God's People. Our frequent international meetings increased my awareness of and appreciation for our Sisters in every part of the world who witness to God's love and compassion for everyone, especially for the poor and vulnerable.

While participating in a sabbatical program in the year 2000, I had the opportunity to learn about the Care Through Touch ministry. Massage Therapy is offered with care and compassion for the whole person – mind, body, and spirit – with reverence and respect for God's Creation. For ten years I was blessed to offer Care Through Touch as a licensed massage therapist to the Sisters and residents at Sacred Heart Villa, at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Wernersville, and at St. Joseph By the Sea retreat house in Mantoloking, New Jersey. It was a special gift to have the opportunity to offer caring touch to the sick and elderly and to those on retreat.



I entered the convent because I wanted to be a teacher and for my first 17 years in ministry I was involved in education as a teacher and principal. I taught at St. John the Baptist, Allentown; St. John the Baptist, Ottsville; St. Henry, Philadelphia; and Holy Family School, Nazareth. I also served as principal at St. Peter's in Coplay and St. John the Baptist in Ottsville. I have so many happy memories of those years and I am especially grateful that some of my students have stayed in touch through the years. Meeting with them as adults so committed to their families and their communities and sharing memories with them gives me tremendous joy and I am so proud of them!

I feel that I have come full circle now that I am returning in ministry to my first love – teaching. I am excited to be offering my service at Holy Family, the school where our Sisters taught me so many years ago - truly a special blessing. My heart is full of gratitude for all God's blessings during my 55 years as an MSC Sister!