

# Community Spotlight

Since opening its doors in 1966, a vital part of the spiritual fabric of St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School has been the presence of the Dominican Sisters of Amityville. Today, SJB continues to be blessed by five vibrant individuals from this religious community who enrich the daily experience of students, faculty, and staff alike. Each one has left an indelible mark on the institution through her embrace of the Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community, and service.

## Sister Marie Happ, OP

Sr. Marie, the longest-tenured faculty member, has been witness to many changes at SJB since she first set foot in the building as a biology teacher in 1972. Upon completion of her Master's Degree in Biology in 1976, she became qualified to teach an advanced level Biology course which allows students to earn college credits through St. John's University. It is a class that she still enjoys teaching to this day. Sr. Marie served as the science department chairperson until 2020 and then shifted her attention to moderating the newly launched WeCare partnership with Good Samaritan Hospital. This program provides students the opportunity to shadow healthcare professionals in different departments at the hospital. Through Sr. Marie's effort, the program has grown in size each year.



## *Community Spotlight continued*



Sister Kathleen Gallina, OP

Sister Kathleen came to SJB in 2019 following a distinguished career as the principal at St. Rose of Lima Elementary School. She gravitated to SJB because of its Dominican roots as well as the chance to work alongside the other Dominican sisters who are part of the community. Because of her vast experience as a school administrator, it was a logical choice to utilize Sr. Kathleen's talents in the principal's office to assist with the day to day operations of SJB. This provides her with the opportunity to interact with both students and faculty whether it's working with the academic departments, organizing events, or supervising classes.



Sister Antoinette DeAveiro, OP

Sister Antoinette lives by the credo, "If you love what you do, you never work a day in your life." This has been her experience since she began ministering at SJB in 2020. While she is involved in a myriad of tasks on a daily basis, she relishes the interactions that she has with students because it affords her the opportunity to gain insight into what she describes as "the delights and challenges in their lives." Sr. Antoinette has been impressed by the character of the young men and women who make up the SJB student body, something which gives her hope for the future.

## *Community Spotlight continued*



Sister Patricia Hanvey, OP

Sister Patricia started her ministry at SJB in 2019. She found the prospect of working in a high school both exciting and challenging after spending her previous 50 years in education on the elementary level. Throughout her time at SJB, Sr. Patricia has assumed a number of responsibilities including assisting in the alumni office, main office, and the library. Regardless of where she is assigned, Sr. Patricia's objective is to always respond to the needs of the school community which she does with a smile. During her time at SJB, Sister Patricia has come into contact with many SJB students and seen firsthand the school's mission to "educate young people of diverse abilities and backgrounds in an environment of mutual respect and compassion."



Sister Elizabeth McGarvey, OP, LCSW

Sister Beth came to SJB in 2013 to serve as the school's social worker having just finished six years as part of the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Dominic in Amityville. Although somewhat overwhelmed by the specter of learning the names and faces of the populous student body, she quickly established herself as a resource for students in need and created a welcoming environment for all who came in contact with her. She is a firm believer that a community of faith can meet the challenges life brings, no matter how overwhelming these obstacles may seem. Sr. Beth continues to be committed to extending the Dominican mission of preaching the Gospel and building relationships throughout the halls of SJB.