

From the ARC, by Sr. Marie Lindemann, SSS

Greetings! This last month I had the opportunity to work with Sr. Suzanne Simo, SSS and recover a piece of her history with our Sisters in Buffalo, N.Y. My journey began with a box of slides that were stored in the Archives marked BUFFALO on the outside. It was suggested I take them to the Villa and ask Sr. Suzanne to help me identify the slides. It did not take long to encounter the challenge in this task. How would we view the slides? Well, I had a light board which I plugged in to illuminate the pictures. All we were able to see were light and dark. It became evident that we needed something to enlarge the images. Well, low and behold, Sr. Suzanne had a hand-sized slide viewer sitting on her bookshelf. We opened it up and put in one of the slides. I was able to see the image, but it was still too small for Sr. Suzanne to view. Disappointed but not defeated, I held a few slides, one by one up to the light. I tried to describe the slide that I saw, but it did not help Sr. Suzanne to determine what was being seen.

A few days later, as Martha, Rachel, J and I were working at the table by the Archives, Sr. Suzanne came by to see what we were up to. After a little conversation, J and I went down to the basement to see if we could locate a slide projector. It was only a few minutes when we returned with a carousel and a projector. We darkened the area and set it up and retrieved the box of slides. We were able to project on the wall the images from a few of the slides. What a delight! Sr. Suzanne was able to identify the Buffalo Sisters, several of the SSS houses as well as the burial site of Sr. Margaret. It became clear that the Buffalo Sisters were giving a tour to two sisters from Los Angeles visiting the area.

What a joy and a privilege to experience the reminiscences of Sr. Suzanne's life in Buffalo through the slides! In a world where power point and Zoom screen-sharing are now commonplace, thank goodness we saved the slide projector in the Archives. (Homage to Sr. Jean Marie Renfro, SSS and the preparation of slide shows for the use of the community).