

An Interview with  
**Sister Barbara Jennings**

at *The* Historical Society of Missouri St. Louis  
Research Center, St. Louis, Missouri

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interviewed by Dr. Blanche Touhill  
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**Oral History Program**

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## PREFACE

The interview was taped on a placed on a tripod. There are periodic background sounds but the recording is of generally high quality.

The following transcript represents a rendering of the oral history interview. Stylistic alterations have been made as part of a general transcription policy. The interviewee offered clarifications and suggestions, which the following transcript reflects. Any use of brackets [ ] indicates editorial insertions not found on the original audio recordings. Physical gestures, certain vocal inflections such as imitation, and/or pauses are designated by a combination of italics and brackets [ ]. Any use of parentheses ( ) indicates a spoken aside evident from the speaker's intonation, or laughter. Quotation marks ["" ] identify speech depicting dialogue, speech patterns, or the initial use of nicknames. Em dashes [—] are used as a stylistic method to show a meaningful pause or an attempt to capture nuances of dialogue or speech patterns. Words are *italicized* when emphasized in speech or when indicating a court case title. Particularly animated speech is identified with **bold** lettering. Underlining [   ] indicates a proper title of a publication. The use of underlining and double question marks in parentheses [   (??) ] denotes unintelligible phrases. Although substantial care has been taken to render this transcript as accurately as possible, any remaining errors are the responsibility of the editor, Josephine Sporleder.

## Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: Introduce yourself.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: My name is Sister Barbara Jennings, CSJ, I'm a sister of St. Joseph.
- Blanche Touhill: Talk about your childhood: your family setting; how did you play when you were a young girl; who encouraged you in your family to follow whatever dreams you had, that you could really do well in school, or just talk about who encouraged you and why did they encourage you and talk about your life as a child.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: All right. Well, I'm a baby boomer. I was born in 1947. My dad came home in early '46 and we moved from South City to Overland and had just a two-bedroom house. I remember there was a picture of me playing in our gravel driveway with trucks and rocks and all this. I had an older brother and he went to UMSL. He is now in Florida after retiring from union work for many years. We had a lot of kids on our block and summer nights we played in the street. We played wiffle ball, when that came in. Before that we had softballs because, of course, baseball was the main sport and you could play it in the street and most of the time we didn't have to worry about breaking windows. There was not very much traffic. It was a side street. The airplanes would go over to the airport. A lot of times we'd sit in school and we'd have to stop because the airplanes were so loud. We did not have air conditioning at Presentation grade school. It was at Brown Road and Tutor Avenue.
- Blanche Touhill: It's still there, isn't it?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: It's still there. The building is still there.
- Blanche Touhill: Is it still an operating parish?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I think the parish is but not the school. So I started there in kindergarten.
- Blanche Touhill: Now stop for just a moment. When you played softball or baseball and you played in the street, did you play with boys and girls together?

Sister Barbara Jennings

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, we normally did until the boys got bigger and then they wanted to go off and they could go a few blocks away and play in a real field and my brother was on a little league team and all that. So then it was up to the little kids and we still all played together. We played hide-and-seek or kickball or whatever.

Blanche Touhill: Did you play at night?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, and the rule was, when the lightning bugs start coming out, then you have to come home. I remember, it was great to get a bath after those hot nights being outside and playing. The other thing during the summer is, we had a book mobile that would come near our house and my parents thought it was very important to read, especially my dad. He was quite a historian. So we probably went to the book mobile at least once a week and checked out 10 books or whatever it was. So I remember there was a series of historical novels for girls and boys at that time and all the drawings were silhouettes. I often wonder if those are still around somewhere but I remember reading those. So it was very interesting.

Blanche Touhill: Now, that was St. Louis County's book mobile?

Sister Barbara Jennings: St. Louis County, correct. They would come across the Rock Road to Midland School and I don't even remember, I think they were there all the time during the summer but I can't remember for sure. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, the sisters who taught us, the Sisters of St. Joseph in Presentation, they really encouraged me to try out for Rosati-Kain which was called the major learning school and you had to have a certain grade point average and you had to pass a test. So I did that. So there were three of us that went from Overland to Rosati. We took three buses and had a lot of fun just doing that after school.

Blanche Touhill: It must have taken an hour.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, at least an hour.

Blanche Touhill: And what buses did you take?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: The Lindell, the City Limits and then the Rock Road, mm-hmm. The City Limits would go into Wellston and that was its turn-around.
- Blanche Touhill: A turn-around and you'd have to transfer there.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, another transfer.
- Blanche Touhill: And they had all kinds of stores.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes. So if we had time, we stopped at the Kat's Drug Store and got a Coke or whatever. It was not fun in the winter but it was just what we did. My brother went to McBride. He had to take two buses. I remember one night my brother and my dad were very late coming home because there was a big snow storm and they both took the bus to work. My dad worked downtown and it was, like, 8:00 o'clock, 9:00 o'clock and we were all worried, but they were fine.
- Blanche Touhill: There were no cell phones.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No cell phones, no.
- Blanche Touhill: It's just, they didn't arrive and you just wondered.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: You just wondered.
- Blanche Touhill: And people would go to the window or the door and look out.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, mm-hmm. We didn't have to walk far from the bus, just about two blocks. That wasn't bad but it was a big snow storm. So that was basically my childhood.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you learn to cook and to bake and sew?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: A little bit, mostly to bake, yeah. We didn't have to learn how to cook too much when I was growing up but I did get into baking cakes for a while when I was about in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, high school and...
- Blanche Touhill: So you could do it?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, I could do it, and I could put together a meal like hot dogs.

Sister Barbara Jennings

Blanche Touhill: But, I mean, you could do it if you had to, you could?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, sure.

Blanche Touhill: Your mother was a stay-at-home mom?

Sister Barbara Jennings: She was. She had worked at Brown Shoe Company and she worked during most of the war.

Blanche Touhill: Was your brother born before you were born?

Sister Barbara Jennings: He was born in '44.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, my goodness.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, January. My dad did not have to go...

Blanche Touhill: ...overseas.

Sister Barbara Jennings: He was already 32 years old.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, he wasn't in the service?

Sister Barbara Jennings: He was in the service but he was in the United States until about...well, I guess sometime, early '43 and he was down at Ft. Leonardwood.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, so he could come home on weekends or something of that nature?

Sister Barbara Jennings: He could come home, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Or every once in a while, he could come.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Right.

Blanche Touhill: That was a long way in those days.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, I imagine it was.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, because the bus, you had to take the Greyhound Bus, I think it was.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: Yes, I think it wasn't an easy trip.

Sister Barbara Jennings

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.

Blanche Touhill: It was direct but it was a long way.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, sure, and I know my mom would go down there...

Blanche Touhill: The roads weren't as good, is what I'm really saying.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, I bet, yeah. There wasn't a Highway 55 or whatever.

Blanche Touhill: No.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Right. Yeah, I know she went there and she also went to see him in Camp Campbell, Kentucky, yeah. She would talk about that.

Blanche Touhill: Was he guarding the gold?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Probably.

Blanche Touhill: That's Ft. Knox, yeah.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, Ft. Knox, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: But, you know, I always heard it was very difficult on the wives to visit those camps and get a room because the rooms were in such premium for these wives to come down and spend some time with their husbands.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, I bet, sure, yeah. She never mentioned that too much. I think she always went with a friend of hers whose boyfriend or husband was probably down there too because everybody was there.

Blanche Touhill: I think girls did that.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah. Again, no cell phones.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, no.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Right. I don't even know if there were pay phones.

Blanche Touhill: Well, there were probably pay phones but I would think at the base there would be lines of people in front of the pay phones.



Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, that's true, mm-hmm. So when he got back from the war, he worked at Midland Shoe Company, which eventually moved out to Ladue but Midland was at 11<sup>th</sup> and Washington.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, the old shoe places, yes.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, it was all those shoe companies down there.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, up and down Washington Avenue.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, and that's another memory I have, is the Veiled Prophet Parade. We'd go down Washington so we could go up to my dad's floor. He was, like, the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> floor.
- Blanche Touhill: And you could look out the windows.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, you were in a luxurious place to watch the parade.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: We were. We didn't have to worry about the rain or the cold.
- Blanche Touhill: No, you didn't. I used to watch the Vale Prophet Parade on Vanderverter and Olive.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Okay. Oh, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: I don't know what your experience was but that was a hill slanting downward and you could see the lights of the various floats before they got over the hill and then all of a sudden, you'd see the lights and they would be coming down and they came down on the streetcar tracks where I was.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Really?
- Blanche Touhill: Now, maybe in your era, they came in trucks or something. I don't know how they came.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, I think it was trucks.
- Blanche Touhill: But in my era, they came on the streetcar tracks when they came down and everybody cheered. It was just wonderful.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, it was wonderful. The Veiled Prophet would wave up at us and all the girls and we would follow that. We watched it on TV, learned how to do the bow, except for my brother, of course.
- Blanche Touhill: You're right, yeah.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: So, it was a good memory.
- Blanche Touhill: So, who in your family encouraged you?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Both of my parents encouraged us, my dad especially and his twin sister also encouraged, especially me and my two younger sisters, to get a good education.
- Blanche Touhill: Did he say why?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: He never said why. I think for him, it was just for the sake of it.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, the education of its own weight was valuable.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, and he knew, I'm sure, that we would always have something to fall back on and his sister never got married and so she had to rely on her education. She also went to Rosati-Kain and she worked her whole life and I forget what company she worked for. So I'm sure they saw that as very important.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, actually, a high school diploma was important in those days.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, oh, very important.
- Blanche Touhill: A lot of people did not get the high school diploma.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, right.
- Blanche Touhill: They might go two years and then they sort of wandered off and were able to get jobs.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, still able to get a job.
- Blanche Touhill: There was plenty of work; in the war, there was plenty of work.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's true. That is very true.
- Blanche Touhill: And you could progress if you were smart and capable.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: But the high school diploma was very, very important.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: So you went to grade school and how was grade school?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Grade school was fun, I think, for me. We lived just down the street from the grade school and we had the usual parties, tests, studying.
- Blanche Touhill: Were you a leader?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I didn't become a leader until high school.
- Blanche Touhill: Do you think Rosati-Kain brought it out?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, definitely.
- Blanche Touhill: And how did those two nuns...it's in Notre Dame and the St. Joseph [inaudible 13:13].
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, uh-huh, and they really pushed being a leader.
- Blanche Touhill: For women?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: For women, right and learning to...well, we had student council, we had all kinds of organizations in which we could be leaders and I was the editor of the literary magazine and also one of the sports for a little while but not too long with that. That was just, like, freshman year.
- Blanche Touhill: So you were the reporter?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: The literary magazine was...
- Blanche Touhill: No, for the sports?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, sort of like the reporter, wrote for, yeah, the newspaper and so on.
- Blanche Touhill: So you followed the basketball team or something?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Exactly, yes.

Sister Barbara Jennings

Blanche Touhill: But you liked the literary magazine better?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: Did the students write the articles?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, definitely. We wrote the articles. We submitted them to our moderator, the faculty member, and they would help us learn how to write better. The literary magazine also had a lot of artwork in it and so a lot of the girls, I think...I wasn't an artist, but they learned art and they learned how to improve and submit their work and then there was the joy of seeing it in print. In those days, in the '60s, Rosati was really well known for its literary acumen, the expertise. One of the Notre Dame sisters, Sister Gerald, was an artist in her own right and then the head of the yearbook and the literary magazine were both sisters of St. Joseph and they were really pushing free verse and sort of the free expression. So it was quite well known and very innovative. Even the cover our literary magazine, I remember it had the cut-out. The name was in a cut-out and it was all in paper and cardboard. We didn't have the leather-bound or anything. It was sort of the new thing.

Blanche Touhill: You were proud of it?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: And it was innovative?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, it was innovative, mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: When I went to Rosati-Kain just to visit, I was struck by the fact they had the individual learning. Did they have that when you were there?

Sister Barbara Jennings: No, no.

Blanche Touhill: You had regular classrooms?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: But they moved to that, that individual learning where you would go off by yourself or with a small group of girls and write something or study?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: That wasn't taking place when you were there?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No. I graduated in '65. That kind of learning came in around the mid '70s because I was teaching high school in the mid '70s and we called it individualized learning.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes. But Rosati-Kain was famous for that.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: I think Notre Dame had it and Agrippa had it as well.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Probably.
- Blanche Touhill: But I think you all had it. I think you had more, from my perspective; you had more of a classroom learning plus that.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, absolutely.
- Blanche Touhill: That you sort of combined them both.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Absolutely, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: But it allowed some girls the right to go off and do work on their own.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, we were encouraged to; of course, study together, that sort of thing, go to labs on our own, the French lab or the Spanish lab, that sort of thing but it was structured, yeah. I would think it would work at Rosati-Kain because the girls there are very motivated.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes. Well, they had to come a long way. They still come a long way to go there.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, that's true.
- Blanche Touhill: And it's over 100 years old, isn't it now?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: It's exactly 101 years old.
- Blanche Touhill: Which is a wonderful history in St. Louis.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: It is.
- Blanche Touhill: Do you still have the girls' pictures on the walls that graduated?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I haven't been there for a while. I'm going to be going back. In fact, Labor Day weekend, my class is having its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary so we're all having a reunion over there and so I will see that.
- Blanche Touhill: And is it still run by the St. Joseph and the Notre Dame nuns?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No, it's totally Arch Diocese now. There's no sisters there. I'm sorry, there is one sister there, a Notre Dame. She is the principal or the president. I think she's the president, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, that's happening throughout the United States.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: So, do you have a lay board?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, a lay board. They've probably had that for a long time.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, I'm sure they did.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: And they're just finishing a new wing on Newstead. They tore down the old convent part and put in a two-story wing to the building, an elevator. I think it's supposed to be science.
- Blanche Touhill: How wonderful!
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: How smart.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Right.
- Blanche Touhill: Now, when they said to the girls, "You should be a leader," how did they get that across?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Not only saying it but, again, letting us practice. Oh, another event I remember of leadership was the Kennedy election, the second

Sister Barbara Jennings

Kennedy election. We had mock political parties, rallies and so almost everybody had to do something with that: plan the rally or play your campaign. So that was a big deal and it was a lot of fun. You really learned more about politics.

Blanche Touhill: What year did he die, '64 or '65?

Sister Barbara Jennings: '63.

Blanche Touhill: '63? So you were in high school when he died?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, we were.

Blanche Touhill: And how did that news come? Do you remember it?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes. We were sent home that afternoon. I remember we were sent home for that. We were sent home for the Cuban Missile Crisis and I don't think any other time were we sent home but those were very traumatic, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: They were because the Cuban Missile Crisis, there was a thought we would be in war and it would be atomic.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, that's right. It was October of '63 probably. I don't remember.

Blanche Touhill: And then he was killed in November.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, end of November, yes. And it must have been during the campaign, he was in St. Louis and went down Lindell...

Blanche Touhill: You know, I heard he was here. Did you see him?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, we were allowed to stay at school. The FBI was there for a few days ahead and they went up on the roof and all that. But we were allowed to stay and watch out the windows.

Blanche Touhill: How wonderful!

Sister Barbara Jennings: It was great, very exciting.

Blanche Touhill: And the sidewalks were lined or were they lined?

Sister Barbara Jennings: I think so, yeah.

Sister Barbara Jennings

Blanche Touhill: Was he in an open car?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, it was open.

Blanche Touhill: Well, that's...

Sister Barbara Jennings: That's right.

Blanche Touhill: That was what happened to him in...now that I think about it, he did ride in open cars.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm, that's right.

Blanche Touhill: Did you use the cathedral church for your religious events?

Sister Barbara Jennings: We only used it for graduations, yes.

Blanche Touhill: Oh. Did you have a chapel?

Sister Barbara Jennings: No. For the big masses, we would have the gym. The gym would be set up and we did have mass every day, I believe but that would have been in the smaller chapel.

Blanche Touhill: And that was not obligatory?

Sister Barbara Jennings: No.

Blanche Touhill: Because if you have it in a small chapel, everybody can't get in.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, exactly.

Blanche Touhill: So you enjoyed your high school, more so than your grade school or both?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, I'd say more so than grade school but both, yeah, more so, I think, just growing older.

Blanche Touhill: Well, and making the trip every day.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: That was an adventure.

Sister Barbara Jennings: That was an adventure whereas in grade school, I only had to walk one block up to school.



Sister Barbara Jennings

Blanche Touhill: That's right. Are you still friends with any of your grade school or high school friends?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Only high school friends.

Blanche Touhill: Yeah, but high school.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, grade school, I've lost total track of all those friends but high school, we have kept up: Christmas cards or visits in the summer sometimes, mm-hmm, yeah. So we're all looking forward to our reunion.

Blanche Touhill: Absolutely. How many girls were in the class roughly?

Sister Barbara Jennings: A hundred and four.

Blanche Touhill: That's a nice size.

Sister Barbara Jennings: It was great, yeah.

Blanche Touhill: So you really could know almost everybody?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, and we had majors in high school. You could be an art major or a secretarial major or a language major, so to speak, the track that you went on.

Blanche Touhill: And what were you?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Well, I was a secretarial.

Blanche Touhill: Did you learn typing and shorthand?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes.

Blanche Touhill: Did you learn Gregg?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.

Blanche Touhill: I learned Gregg. I went to typing and shorthand.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Who were your teachers?

Blanche Touhill: Well, I went to Beaumont High School. I went to a public high school and I remember my teachers, they were wonderful and to this day, I can still take shorthand.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, I can, too.
- Blanche Touhill: If somebody would go slow, I can do it.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: And I can read it back and I can still type so on the computer, I can't look at my hands. Do you have that? I have to use the touch method.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, right.
- Blanche Touhill: I either have to look into the vacant space or I have to read it, but I can't peck.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, me neither. That would be a mortal sin.
- Blanche Touhill: It would be a mortal sin. It's so interesting how your brain works on those things.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: So when you graduated from high school, then what happened? Did you go into the nunnery then?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No, I worked for a year at John Hancock Life Insurance on Clayton Road and I was just a clerk. People would send in their insurance books, which is unheard of, of course, today, and I would mark them paid and then send them back and do some filing, things like that, and I took one class at Washington U at night. It was Comp 101.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you like it?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, it was very interesting. And I pretty much knew I wanted to be an English major. So I just decided, over that year, that I would enter the convent and try it. So I was dating a young man and told him and he was, "Oh, well, that was a surprise" but he went to Rolla. He was going to Rolla at that time. So I'm glad I did. It was a very different world, of course, much more restricted.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, it was.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, more restricted.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: But we were more restricted. We were used to restrictions, I think, in those days.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm, yeah, that's true, and simplicity.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: And again, didn't have cell phones.
- Blanche Touhill: And was your novitiate experience down on Minnesota?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: And do those St. Joseph nuns of Carondelet, do they have nuns, where in the United States? Where is your district?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: We were in Denver, we're still out there in Denver, up in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Houston, Texas; Waco, Texas; East to Indiana; Kansas City. So those were the main places that we were.
- Blanche Touhill: You're mainly a Midwestern and some Southwest.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Correct, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: But this would be the place up in novitiate?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, St. Louis, sure.
- Blanche Touhill: For all of those nuns?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: So how many were in your class?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: We started with 21 and now we have 4.
- Blanche Touhill: But how many got through and became nuns?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: About 10 took first vows.
- Blanche Touhill: Of the 21?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: I assume that's the real drop-off.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's the drop-off, yeah.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: And then somebody else might drop out later.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: You felt called?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I did. I think part of it was the whole Kennedy era, the Peace Corps...
- Blanche Touhill: ...and serving?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, and service, and again at Rosati, we had a very good picture of what was going on on the globe. We were global before probably other people were.
- Blanche Touhill: How did they do that?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Well, our history classes; our social studies; thinking about the missions, which is a very Catholic thing. So, in fact, I remember saying to my guidance counselor probably in junior year, I said, "Oh, I'd like to kind of go to the Peace Corps" and she said, "Well, what would you like to do after that? That's only two years of your life," so she made me think about a little bit beyond.
- Blanche Touhill: ...the future.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes. So, again, Rosati was preparation for the global economy. I remember thinking, back then, that if we sent all of our jobs to Japan and China, what would be left here in manufacturing? So that was in 1964.
- Blanche Touhill: That was remarkable.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, and asking that question so that has come back on us in some ways, that we've lost all those manufacturing jobs here. So my first teaching assignment was in Waco, Texas and I taught high school, English and Religion and that was a fun place to be, very different culture.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, that's where the branch Divinians were.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: They were there.
- Blanche Touhill: Were the fundamentalists there when you were?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: They were there but we didn't know about them at that time. I remember hearing about this cult group out in the country and probably when we were driving somewhere, somebody said, "Oh, there's some kind of a strange cult group down that road" or something but we didn't think anything of it.
- Blanche Touhill: And there's a famous school there. Is it Southern Methodist?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Baylor.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, Baylor is there, that's right, Baylor is there.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, Baylor was a big population rise in that town.
- Blanche Touhill: Is it Baptist?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: It's Baptist, mm-hmm. And it's quite a mix of people. A lot of the Mexican people are there. There was a very poor area called No Man's Land that had no running water or electricity and this was in the 1970's. The kids at our high school would collect Christmas baskets for them and we would bring them over there.
- Blanche Touhill: Were they mainly illegals or were they just Mexican/Americans who were poor?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: They were mostly African Americans.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, African Americans.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah. It was very different...well, maybe not so much different. Yeah, I was just shocked that there would still be that sort of area anywhere in our country.
- Blanche Touhill: In the '70s?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes. It was just a small little area just outside the city limits. But Waco was a lot of fun. The sports were a big thing; drama was big. The kids were very, I would say, unspoiled.
- Blanche Touhill: So they wanted to learn?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, they wanted to learn. Their parents were motivating them and most of them came from very good families with two parents.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: And this was a high school?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, high school. It was the only Catholic High School until you would get to Austin and I believe there were only two Catholic high schools in the whole Austin Diocese which was huge. So there weren't too many Catholics in that area; mostly Baptist...
- Blanche Touhill: But you would think the Hispanics would be Catholic.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, they were Catholic.
- Blanche Touhill: But they went to the public schools?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: A lot of them went to public school, yeah. I only went to one Quinceanera when I was down there, out of a lot of the girls that could have had one but probably couldn't afford it. So it was a slightly different culture down there but very lovely. A lot of the Catholics were also of Czechoslovakian descent.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes. It's interesting they got to Waco, Texas.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, I don't know how that happened. They either had a Czech name or a Hispanic name, a lot of them.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes. So then where did you go?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Then I went to St. Teresa's Academy in Kansas City.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, that's a very famous school.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah. It's a very old school. I think its 1866, was the beginning of that school in Kansas City downtown.
- Blanche Touhill: That was almost the beginning of Kansas City, wasn't it, Westport and all of that.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, it was.
- Blanche Touhill: It was a cattle town, really.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, very much, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: But Kansas City is a nice town.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: It's a beautiful town, yeah; very lovely.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: And you taught in the high school there?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Taught high school for 10 years, again, English and religion and I had the yearbook there also. I had the yearbook in Waco; I had the junior class moderator. That was probably it.
- Blanche Touhill: And were you spreading the word of leadership?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes. Those girls also were taught to be leaders, no matter what they found themselves in, families or jobs or whatever, to be leaders.
- Blanche Touhill: Help solve their problems.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, help solve the problems, carry on their faith, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, reach out to the poor?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, absolutely, and we had a good mix of students there at St. Teresa's too. It's now at 56th and Main. I mean, it's been there since 1919, I believe, a long time ago. When it first moved to 56<sup>th</sup> and Main, people thought, "Why are you going way out there, to the country?" and the plaza wasn't even there yet so there are pictures of this big building in the middle of a field, empty field.
- Blanche Touhill: Isn't that wonderful?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: That's a history you don't want to lose.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's right, yes. The girls would take streetcars from all over the...oh, that's right, the city put in a streetcar just for St. Teresa's.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, how wonderful!
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, they had to.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: They had to.
- Blanche Touhill: They had to service and then more people moved down in that area.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, oh, yes.
- Blanche Touhill: What were you doing when Vatican II came about?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, I was in high school still then.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, you were?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, '64.
- Blanche Touhill: So you were in the midst of the change?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, and then when I entered the community, those changes became even more evident to me but, of course, the first time was the mass in English, the priest facing the people. That would have been around '65, '66, a lot less of the rituals. We didn't have as many high masses with incense and all that. So that's mostly what I remember at first, but then, in the community, in the late '60s, the discussion about going back to our roots as women religious and so there were people that studied what religious life was like back in the 1600's in France for the Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Blanche Touhill: I think all the orders must have done that.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: We all did that and that's when we found that the women in those days were wearing the women's clothing of that time.
- Blanche Touhill: So, the fashion of the day.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Roughly.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Roughly, yeah, exactly.
- Blanche Touhill: Now, did each order decide that on their own?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: They did. See, the Vatican council told religious women and men to go back to their roots and re-discover what was the reason you were founded and can you apply that today. What was life like back in those days and one of the things they found, and almost all the orders were founded around the same time, pre-Revolutionary France or Italy or Poland or whatever but...



Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: After the Reformation.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, after the Reformation.
- Blanche Touhill: So they were part of the Reformation of the church?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, and, as I said, they didn't wear habits. They were wearing the clothing of the day. Their lives were not as structured as they came to be in the 1800's, 1900's in the United States or even in Europe. So our lives became less structured also. One of the first parts of the habit that was dropped that I remember in high school was the Sisters of St. Joseph used to wear rosary.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, yes, around the belt, or off the belt, yes.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's right, yes, so that was dropped. The Notre Dame Sisters used to have a big veil and a gimp in front. They dropped that and had a smaller head covering. And then we had the experimental age of wearing suits and we had three colors: black, blue or brown, and wearing the veil, a small veil and so that's sort of how it evolved over time.
- Blanche Touhill: And then eventually they got rid of the veil.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: And then they wore almost any outfit...
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Correct, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: ...that was appropriate.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: ...appropriate, yeah, right.
- Blanche Touhill: And now you're in slacks.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes. I love comfort, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Was that a hard transition to make?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Not for me.
- Blanche Touhill: What about the older nuns?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, for some of them it was very hard, yeah.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: Did they maintain the habit?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Some did, for many years, right, or they would wear a modified habit, not the full...those habits were made out of serge and very hot. They did have white, either for nursing or in the South, in Texas or in Georgia.
- Blanche Touhill: I did not know that.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, they could wear white habits but they were so made out of serge.
- Blanche Touhill: But the sun isn't as cruel in the white.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: What other changes then took place? The convents weren't as structured as they were before?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes.
- Blanche Touhill: There were still rules, I'm sure, that you had to do certain things at certain times, like prayers or whatever.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Prayers and meals.
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, that's right. They would have to have meals at a certain time.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes.
- Blanche Touhill: But then it moved once again and they moved away from the convents and the nuns began to move into apartments?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, or houses, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: So you had to pay for those yourself?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Well, then we started getting salaries that we had not gotten before and we worked that out, you know, with the various bishops where we were working. So that did change.
- Blanche Touhill: Did you get an equitable raise with the lay teachers or was it still below?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: It depended on the Diocese. In Kansas City, we did get an equitable pay, yes, but here in St. Louis, no, not for a while but I think now...
- Blanche Touhill: Now they do.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, and in Texas, I don't remember. I think we did and, plus, we got a car allowance because in Texas we had to drive back up to St. Louis for meetings.
- Blanche Touhill: Well, and you'd have to drive around Texas and driving around Waco...
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: ...and I think public transportation in those days began to go down.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, I suppose so because more people...
- Blanche Touhill: So you really did have to have a car.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, more people and we used to rely on other people to take us places and we realized, that was hard on the mothers or parents.
- Blanche Touhill: The mothers went to work.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, then the mothers went to work.
- Blanche Touhill: And so even if it was part-time, they were really not as available.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's right.
- Blanche Touhill: They were willing but they were just not as available.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's very true, mm-hmm; good point. So, yeah, for me, I did not mind. I never wore the habit.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, you never wore the habit?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No, because I entered in '66 and then in '67 is when I would have received the habit but we entered the novitiate without a habit. We just had a black skirt, white blouse and that was it.
- Blanche Touhill: Isn't that interesting?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm, yeah. So some of the girls...most of us were really girls in those days, 18 and 19 years old...they were very unhappy that they didn't get to wear the habit but I didn't mind at all. I grew up in St. Louis. I knew what the summers were like.
- Blanche Touhill: That's right.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: So, no, yeah. So, yeah, and the other thing that happened was, we started going more to the parent/teacher meetings and so we had to be out at night.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, so the restrictions, of course.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: The restrictions were lifted. When I was in grade school, my parents I think just went up to school. They had to go up during the day to get our report cards because the sisters could not be out at night, which was hard, too.
- Blanche Touhill: Actually, I do remember those days and I remember, if a nun wanted to go someplace, she needed somebody to go with her.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: In my era and I'm sure that was true at night as well.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yeah, even more so at night, sure. So, then we also began working in parishes.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, not as teachers but as part of the parish work?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Correct, yeah, visiting the sick or doing the soup kitchen or the liturgy.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, well, that was Vatican II, wasn't it?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That was Vatican II.
- Blanche Touhill: You had to come out.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's right.
- Blanche Touhill: And that was the early St. Joseph order as well? That's what you found when you look back?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: That's true. The early St. Joseph order was innovative in that they kind of skirted the politics of the day after the Revolution and so on and they centered on teaching young women how to make lace so they could earn a living and how to read and write and that was the mode of operation and then, of course, that changed as time went on because one bishop would say, "Would you come over here and I have a clinic" or "I want to get a clinic started."
- Blanche Touhill: Yes, you were in nursing for a long time.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, we had a lot of hospitals, mm-hmm. Here in St. Louis, we had St. Joseph's in Kirkwood.
- Blanche Touhill: But you went out to the Indian reservations as well as nurses.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, uh-huh. The first six that left from St. Louis...well, they weren't the first to leave from St. Louis but, yeah, they trekked across the desert, mm-hmm, yeah, went to California and then back to Tucson and started a hospital there.
- Blanche Touhill: Were you in Omaha too?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I don't think we were ever in Omaha.
- Blanche Touhill: You were always in the Southwest then, you think?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, and LA area, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: In the LA area?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: And Arizona, Tucson. We have a hospital there. I think it's St. Mary's. I'm not sure.
- Blanche Touhill: Do you have any hospitals in Missouri anymore?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No.
- Blanche Touhill: No, because you tore down...did you have St. Joseph's at one time?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: St. Joseph's in Kirkwood, uh-huh.
- Blanche Touhill: And that's gone.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: That is gone now. There's a retirement home on that spot.

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Blanche Touhill: Yes, there is, that's right.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: And the interesting story about that hospital is, we bought it in 1953 from the Army for \$1 and it was a small hospital but it lasted from '53 until '93, so 40 years and then we sold it to the S.S.M. System and I think it stayed open maybe another 10 years, as far as staying open but it was a small hospital and small is not good anymore.
- Blanche Touhill: No, it financially couldn't make it.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, that's right. So the S.S.M. then built St. Clare out in Fenton.
- Blanche Touhill: Oh, that's right, yes. How many nuns in the St. Joseph order are there today?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Today there's about 350.
- Blanche Touhill: And what are you planning on to carry on your work?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, what's the future.
- Blanche Touhill: What's the future to carry on your work?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Well, we have to look at certain...our institutions, of course, and I'm on the sponsorship committee, in fact, how we're going to transition with our institutions: our two colleges and our two high schools.
- Blanche Touhill: So your two high schools are Rosati-Kain, is that right?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: No, our two high schools are St. Teresa's in Kansas City and...
- Blanche Touhill: ...St. Joe's here.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: ...St. Joe's here, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: Are you in the grade schools anymore?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Just a few but those aren't ours. Those are Arch Diocese.
- Blanche Touhill: Your nuns are teaching there?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah.

Sister Barbara Jennings

Blanche Touhill: And then, what hospitals?

Sister Barbara Jennings: We have no more hospitals. We just sold St. Joseph's in Kansas City to...it wasn't Prime Health...it was Healthcare Associates, I forget. Someone bought it.

Blanche Touhill: Okay, so you have two high schools and...

Sister Barbara Jennings: ...two colleges or universities.

Blanche Touhill: Avila?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Uh-huh.

Blanche Touhill: And what's the one...

Sister Barbara Jennings: Fontbonne.

Blanche Touhill: Oh, of course, Fontbonne.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, mm-hmm, named after our founders in France. So those two schools are doing very well.

Blanche Touhill: And you want them to continue with the St. Joseph order philosophy, don't you?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, of course.

Blanche Touhill: And religious principles.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm. I think they will, at least for quite a long time.

Blanche Touhill: How do you do that?

Sister Barbara Jennings: The presidents, the leadership of those schools are very much in alignment with the Catholic faith, Catholic teachings. They are supportive of the Sisters of St. Joseph and as long as Catholic education can continue, I think we certainly meet a need in our society for those kinds of schools. You know, really, Fontbonne is the only small Catholic university in the St. Louis area. Of course, Loreto used to be Maryville. So we're meeting that need.

Blanche Touhill: The [inaudible 48:59] college. Didn't we call it the [inaudible 48:59] college?

Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: I don't know. Is that it?
- Blanche Touhill: We did. I don't know why. It was Webster, Fontbonne and Maryville.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, mm-hmm, and they were each started by a religious order, yeah.
- Blanche Touhill: Was it a big thing when you took boys in or men into the colleges?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I don't think so.
- Blanche Touhill: It was the time.
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, it was the time. It happened right after I left Fontbonne.
- Blanche Touhill: What did you teach at Fontbonne?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, I taught there actually from 2005 to 2010 in the Options Program which was the night school. I went there as a student, graduated in '71 and then when I came back to St. Louis from Kansas City in '05, I taught at Fontbonne. I taught Contemporary Moral Issues and Religious Studies and those were a lot of fun because these were the adult students and they're just more inquisitive.
- Blanche Touhill: And they're determined to learn?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, and they have the real life experience. So I really enjoyed that and I had taught at Avila for 10 years, also in the night school and there I taught Peace Studies and the History of Religions in the United States.
- Blanche Touhill: Let me change the subject a little bit. Let me ask you: Have you received an award or awards that you're very proud of?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: One of the awards that I received was, when I was working in Kansas City in the Peace and Justice Office, after I stopped teaching high school for a while and I was on our racism task force and I received an award from one of the organizations in Kansas City for the work on anti-racism that we did.
- Blanche Touhill: Have you demonstrated?



Sister Barbara Jennings

- Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, oh, many times.
- Blanche Touhill: Where have you demonstrated?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: The first time was in the early '80s, a whole group of us were involved in Kansas City with the issue of the budget cuts, the food stamp cuts, the welfare cuts and so on. So we did that probably two or three times. Also when I was in Kansas City, I was living in the inner city and whenever there was a shooting...this was in the '90s, when the drugs start coming in and I was working in the inner city parish and we did community organizing and Alvin Brooks, who almost became mayor of Kansas City but he started having vigils. The night after a shooting, there would be a vigil in front of the house or wherever it was and people would gather and so some of us would go to those. They were just an hour or something but it was a prayer.
- Blanche Touhill: Did that take courage?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Not really. I was used to being in the city, in the inner city.
- Blanche Touhill: Did people know you were nuns?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Yeah, I think they did, mm-hmm.
- Blanche Touhill: So they knew you?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: They knew, yeah, most of the time.
- Blanche Touhill: I have to ask you: If you had been born 50 years before you were born, what would your life be like today?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: Probably not a lot different. I might still be teaching high school or teaching college in a more traditional way.
- Blanche Touhill: And in a habit?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: And in the habit, right.
- Blanche Touhill: But you think you would have probably chosen a religious life?
- Sister Barbara Jennings: I probably would have, yes.
- Blanche Touhill: Tell me what you do now. You work...

Sister Barbara Jennings

Sister Barbara Jennings: ...with the Midwest Coalition for Responsible Investment.

Blanche Touhill: And what do they do?

Sister Barbara Jennings: And that is a group of religious men and women and we have been in existence since 1977 so we're about ready to celebrate 40 years and the group got together, along with the Interfaith Center which is in New York, and that's more interfaith. Right here, we're more Catholic although we do have some members of other faiths and we work with corporations to help them. To try to help them, we do our homework on the corporation. We know what they're doing that's good and we try to help them become better. And so we're working a lot here in St. Louis area because we're kind of like the regional office for the Interfaith Center which is up in New York. So we're working here in St. Louis with our corporations on water issues because we see that as one of the most important issues for our faith, it's a faith-based thing. All religions honor water, recognize it as a gift from God. And then secondly, because it's so important for human life and with all of the challenges that we have today, with climate change and so on, we know water is a precious commodity and we don't have a lot left. In fact, I believe it's the World Resources Institute predicts that by 2040...and probably I have my numbers wrong...but by 2040 we will have a 40% higher demand for water than we have now because of population growth, et cetera, et cetera. So that could be a pretty scary picture. And so we try to help our companies work in that area and see what they're doing, you know, can you reduce your water more. Try everything you can. There's plenty of technology out there now to begin doing that.

Blanche Touhill: So you do a lot of research?

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, yes, mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: I know the Pope has just issued an encyclical on environment.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Mm-hmm.

Blanche Touhill: Would you comment on that and then relate it to your work that you're engaging in now.

Sister Barbara Jennings

Sister Barbara Jennings: I've only read about 35 pages of it so far. It's about 86 pages but I would certainly say I would agree with most of what he's saying, that obviously climate change is going to affect all of us: the rich, the poor, the children, and that he's drawn the dots for us between the poverty of those who will be affected by rising waters, loss of their land, loss of fishing, et cetera and that we have to look at more than one source of energy and I know some of our corporations are saying energy poverty. I agree, energy poverty is not a good thing. We don't want children using candlelight for school, et cetera. I love air conditioning but there are so many ways of getting that problem fixed, in rural areas especially and that we can't look so much at one source of energy in our world today because that will be very expensive for corporations, for the people, and in the long run, we know fossil fuels will add to climate change, to the heat. So it's that connecting the dots that the Pope has tried to do for us and I hope that we're listening.

Blanche Touhill: Well, I will say, I've observed you at stock meetings and I think the nuns make a very good impression. I think they come in with reason and with sincerity and I think everybody in the room appreciates what you're saying.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Oh, thank you.

Blanche Touhill: Do you think the St. Joseph order, the spirit of the St. Joseph order will be in existence in 100 years?

Sister Barbara Jennings: If we're not, it doesn't make any difference as long as the Gospel is around in 100 years.

Blanche Touhill: I see, and carries that message along.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Yes, I hope so.

Blanche Touhill: Thank you very much, Sister, it was delightful.

Sister Barbara Jennings: Thank you, Blanche, it was delightful.