Not Finished
Sr. Margit Nagy, CDP

"Not finished – Sr. Nagy" declared the hand-lettered sign on my Main 308 office door. I put it there to inform the Cotton salvaging staff and our OLLU personnel that in between the May 2008 final examinations, I would continue sorting through what was left of my water-ravaged personal books, key papers, and mementos. When time and health concerns prompted an end to the salvaging, OLLU History and Political Science graduate Alicia Aguilar and I took one last photo outside Main 308. We both wore white hard hats supplemented with blue face masks and t-shirts, just the right attire for Main Building's post-fire dust, heat and humidity.

It is now mid-October 2008. My relocated office is in Ayers Hall, a dorm room with built-in furniture. I teach in three separate campus locations. Most of all I miss the informal, spontaneous interactions with other members of the OLLU community—whether faculty, students, staff, administrators, convent CDPs or visitors—that Main building hallways and common areas enabled on a daily basis.

I look again at the last photo of me outside my Main 308 office. Alicia's arm rests supportively on my shoulder with the sign, "Not Finished – Sr. Nagy,” clearly visible in the background. I recall with profound gratitude the many spontaneous acts of kindness, physical assistance, and gifts of flowers, money, coffee cup, school supplies, and Asian artifacts from OLLU students and colleagues to a New Yorker with whom I'd attended an Asian Institute one summer at Hofstra University.

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more than 30 years ago. As Helen Keller wisely observed, “Friends create the world anew each day; without their loving care, courage would not suffice to keep hearts strong for life.” In the photo I wear a t-shirt from the years I was Director of the Kliesen International Center, also located on Main third floor. The logo shows the twin turrets of Main Building flanking Our Lady’s statue. How appropriate! “Not finished” – because the on-going project that Sr. Nagy and the whole community are now called to is even more demanding than salvaging the past. It is “rebuilding from the Mission up.”