

Dear Marie,

You felt a call to religious life for about four years before you finally said yes to God. You questioned God, "Why me? Why not someone else?" After much prayer and struggle a thought came to your mind, "Why not me? I will try." You entered the Novitiate (training program) for candidates pursuing religious life.

When you entered over 50 years ago there was a vibrant community, young women entering, schools flourishing and new mission areas opening up. As a teacher you experienced children from a middle class area and from a low income area and learned that for the most part a healthy family life was very important for students to grow in knowledge and maturity.

Probably a turning point in your life was during a retreat before you made Final Profession (ceremony when you dedicate your life to Christ forever) was when you realized that first you were a professional religious then a professional teacher.

After a few years you became leader of the community where you tried to encourage the young, support the middle-aged in their ministry and comfort the sick, elderly and dying.

During your 30's and 40's you encountered many

Challenging situations:

- Deaths and funerals of several Sisters

- Selling of properties

- Death of your parents

- Some difficult business affairs

Opportunities:

- Visiting Sisters in Peru and Reserves in Canada giving you a global view of the world

Attending general meeting of Sisters from 17 different countries,  
experiencing different cultures

Courses in liturgy , spirituality and scripture

Blessings:

Support from the Sisters in community during rough times

Special celebrations – jubilees and birthdays

Fun times together

Regular times for prayer and Eucharist

Life has its ups and downs, pleasant and unpleasant events, opportunities and restrictions, joys and sorrows. It is important that we learn from these experiences, form friendships to support us and above all develop a prayer life and relationship with Christ to sustain us.

*Sr. Marie Baker OSB*