

I was born in Winnipeg January 17, 1913; attended Elmwood Elementary School, Lord Selkirk School for grades 7-8 and St. Mary's Academy for grades 9-11. I left Winnipeg in 1954 to enter the Community of Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate; returned to Winnipeg 1997 and worked in Holy Family Home in the Pastoral Care Department until I retired in 2004.

I always loved Winnipeg. Why? Cold clear winter skies, Bright Northern Lights, sun dogs on extra cold days, "tramping" through deep snow drifts, making angels in the snow, watching the snow fall silently, swirling around the street lamps, hearing the squeaking of your boots as you walked on the snow-packed roads.

Work with the elderly was no "work" at all. It was an undeserved privilege and an honor to be among those elderly, wise and beautiful people. To be entrusted with those who are utterly dependant, vulnerable and trusting called forth respect, love, and a desire to make their ending years as meaningful, peaceful and comfortable. They elicited in me a desire to respect their integrity; to learn from them what is important and what is sham.

Does one consecrate oneself or is one consecrated? Does one decide to be set aside for a special purpose or is there One whose decision determines that?

I speak for myself. I speak out of my experience. Vulnerability stalked me from my earliest days. Not being particularly bright and being awkward socially, it became my habit to withdraw into the world of the spirit. As I child, I knew that **that** was where God was and I used to talk to Him whenever I needed an ear. Instinctly I knew that He heard me and that He was aware of me, understood me, and cared for me and I loved Him. So when the time came to choose my road into the future, I simply asked Him. "What would you like me to do? Where would you have me go?" In a most natural way He answered."Come and be my companion." And as the years pass on one after the other (sixty now). I recall very often and with profound gratitude, the words He spoke through the mouth of His prophet:

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you... Jer.1: 5

It was **He** who chose, **He** who dedicated and consecrated. Through his grace I heard him because I was used to his voice. And through his grace that I was able to obey.

Whom shall I send? Who will go for us? "Here I am," I said, "send me! And He replied: go ..." Is. 6:8

Through the vow of obedience, I learned how I was to be his "companion". The work that He did when He walked the earth, He has allowed me to do - I've taught others about the Kingdom, the love and forgiveness of God, comforted the weak, the aged, and the dying. I've daily joined my voice with my Sisters' to sing, praise, glorify and bless God, one in the Trinity. In imitation of Him, I am trying to be a servant to my Sisters , even to the washing of their feet.

*Submitted by  
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Sister Servant of Mary Immaculate  
(no photo)*