



Sister Magdalena Kellner

Sister Magdalena Kellner always knew she wanted to be an educator, but says it was God's will that led her to become a Spanish teacher. Sister was born in Germany, immigrated with her family to the United States and entered the Congregation from St. Columba Parish in Caledonia. Sister taught grade six at Our Lady of Lourdes in Rochester and then Spanish at DeSales High School in Geneva before going to Nazareth Academy. She was also Vice Principal and then Assistant Principal of Academic Affairs at Nazareth Academy. Sister Magdalena later continued her ministry work as a volunteer at Saint Joseph's Neighborhood Center and Nativity Preparatory Academy.

On the occasion of her 50th jubilee in 2008 she shared these words on her life and vocation.

Vocation:

God's call has been ongoing since my birth, my baptism and subsequent sacramental life of the church as well as life with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. The latter was quite persistent during my senior year at Nazareth Academy while I was working in my father's machine shop. To become a teacher was my desire even though I never imagined that I would become a Spanish teacher and become involved in Hispanic ministry. What has been very rewarding is to discover over the years, how God's call subtly can lead one in totally new directions which bring new rewards.

Ministry:

My ministries over these past 50 years have provided me innumerable ways of fulfilling the charism of the Sisters of Saint Joseph uniting neighbor with neighbor and neighbor with God. For 44 years the field of education provided me the means to accomplish this challenge whether as teacher or administrator. The relationships built with students, colleagues, parents and committee members have also enriched me and challenged me to further growth. As a Spanish teacher, leader of student trips to Spanish-speaking countries as well as my experience with migrants and missionary work in Mexico, my horizons expanded to deepen my awareness of other cultures, their gifts as well as their struggles as minorities. My German heritage has also impacted me greatly over the years. In my current ministries at St. Joseph's Neighborhood

Center, as Spanish interpreter and tutor I continue to be engaged and challenged to express our charism to other members of God's people.

Community:

I grew up with eight siblings and therefore, before entering the Congregation, I was already aware of the challenges of sharing life with persons of various personalities, hopes and desires. Community living in a religious Congregation, however, incorporates the added dimension of choice and dedication to the charism and "culture" of religious life. When I entered, the prevailing attitude was blind obedience. In the course of the past 50 years there has been a gradual shift in seeking God's will through discernment, spiritual direction and listening to God's call through other people. This for me has been a very freeing and enriching process. When one brings this attitude to living with a few or many Sisters in Community, it creates a more comfortable space in which to share life, prayer and the ordinary responsibilities of the day.