

Sister Connie Harkin, SSND – 60 Year Jubilee!



L-R: RJ Mallanno, Sr. Connie
and Fr. Emmanuel Ekanem

*"I knew Jesus
as a friend."*

When I was in Grade Three, I had a very special teacher. Mother Breda, FCJ, encouraged her students to know Jesus as a friend!

I announced to her, "I would like to be a nun like you." Her simple reply was "Maybe you will...."

Later on, our parish priest announced that Father Moore, SFM, would visit. He was known as the Fatima priest. He was encouraging devotion and prayer to Our Lady of Fatima as he went from town to town with the statue.

I could see myself wanting to travel with him and do that ministry. When I had the chance to speak with him, I voiced this desire. His response was simply, "Someday you will....."

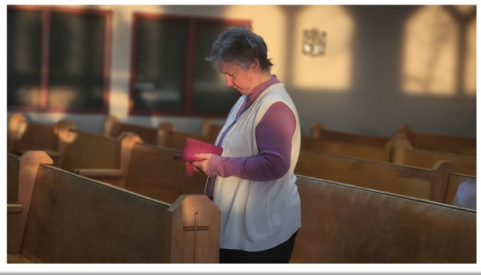
It was only after attending Recollection Days at Notre Dame Academy in Waterdown that the little seed began to really sprout, and the "someday" and "maybe" came into focus.

I felt called to be a teacher. I wanted to instill learning in others. The School Sisters of Notre Dame modelled what it meant to be an educator. So why not give it a try?



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Sister Connie Harkin, SSMD – Cont'd



And here I am now, over 60 years with these wonderful women. I travelled. I knew Jesus as a friend. And I became an educator; one step in another's journey "to reach his or her potential".

In my present "re-FIREment", I have come to discover ways to enable others to grow in relationship with the Lord, through workshops, retreats, and faith days at the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis where I presently volunteer.

God has been - and still is - good to me. God continues to give me new skills to reach out in ways I had never imagined. There is no time limit in a faith journey!

So how do I know this is the life for me?

God is a faithful God – I am not alone. God places people on my path where growth is invited. All I need to do is to keep my eyes open and endeavour to stay awake, to be alert, to be open and honest.

God made me to love creation. This is a result of seeing the beauty, at present, with the mountains and valleys of the West, even to admire the Northern Lights.



God's beauty is everywhere. We need to take the time to enjoy and praise God for it all!



My theme song is "People who need people are the luckiest people in the world". Jesus dealt with many - rich, black, white, poor - we all are looked on with the eyes of God's love, so why can't we do the same?