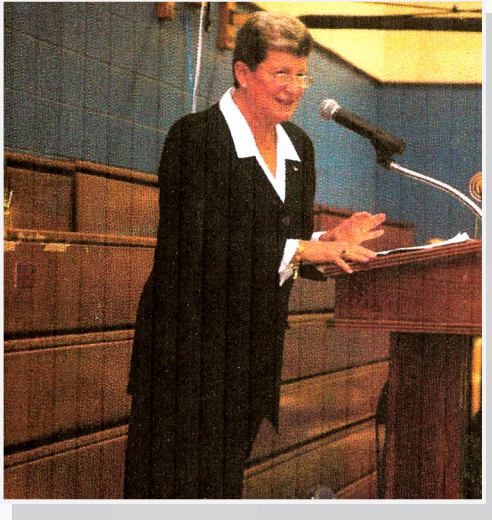


Sister Carol Tabano, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee!



*"I encountered my God in a way
I never knew possible as I was drawn
deeper in love, faith and a sense of true
forgiveness."*

As I look back over the years, my heart smiles with memories of my first mission in Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, a beautiful mountain village. I went after I took my first vows, I had no knowledge of Spanish, it was my first time teaching, I was assigned all church music at the parish and did not know how to play the organ. I spent hours teaching myself with some lessons from a Sister from Caguas. It was a "pump" organ and my legs had some really good exercise! My first Mass found the priest singing the Gloria as I struggled to get through the Kyrie! Within a few months, I was ready for all of the high Masses, weddings and Christmas festivals. Miracles do happen.

At the school I was assigned all classes in Spanish and prepared every night for hours translating how to say/write what I needed to teach. Classes were so challenging and fun as the students and I used a dictionary to help with communication. I finished my science book in three weeks as I directed students to read aloud, read aloud, read aloud page after page. Hysterical! Of course, once I knew more Spanish, we started from chapter one all over.

I was glee club moderator, volleyball coach, cheerleader coach and trained a team of boys to compete in track and field against the "big boy" high schools in the city. At that time, I wore the full habit and you should have seen the faces of

the other male coaches when we competed and won 19 medals and second place in a championship. I was afraid to go up and collect the ribbons and metals our athletes had won so I sent the tallest athlete on our team to go collect awards. Our little town celebrated BIG when we arrived home the whole town was waiting with banners as our bus pulled in.

I taught in a barn changed to a classroom. One day, a bull from the farm got loose and chased me as I saved a child in its path. At the eighth-grade graduation, I took the class to a special place with a pool and food, etc. One boy fell into 12 feet of water and I jumped into the pool with full habit and pulled him out! I was so scared I was going to be sent home since we did not have permission to swim at that point!

I learned to teach with very little equipment and mastered my skills using lots of imagination.

When I returned to the U.S., I worked at Kolbe Cathedral High School, Bridgeport Conn. At this post I kept 90 kids busy with musicals and talent shows. The students had never seen anything like it. It was a heart to heart experience sharing, teaching and learning from my students. It was a gratifying and humbling experience to know the trust my students had in my care for them on every level. I was invited

Sister Carole Tabano, SSND - 60 Year Jubilee! (Cont'd)

back as guest of honor after 25 years that I was at Kolbe. All of the students remembered me upon return to the school.

In the mid 80's I volunteered for two years at the Motherhouse in Wilton, taking care of my Sisters. During that time, I helped produce a musical. We had nuns out of their habits and into costumes, singing songs from around the world.

In 1985, I went to Mississippi where I volunteered at Chatawa for a sabbatical and it was a turning point in my life in many ways. It was a time of struggle, surrender and I encountered my God in a way I never knew possible as I was drawn deeper in love, faith and a sense of true forgiveness. God prepared me for my return to New Jersey when my father had suffered a stroke. I was allowed to go home and help my mother care for him as he worked to get stronger. It was my 25th Jubilee year and my greatest joy was to see him and mom at my Jubilee Ceremony at Wilton.

My last 30 years of teaching were spent at Holy Angels, my alma mater, from which I graduated in 1959. One of my greatest joys was organizing a yearly fundraiser for our Sisters working for the needy children in Honduras. The girls and I worked diligently for months and the final event was a community builder for parents and students alike. We had a full house of more than 400 attendees. In 2009, I also was inducted into the school's Athletic hall of fame.

I retired from AHA in 2019 and have since spent my days living with and taking care of Sister Henrice who is 97 years young, in Upper Saddle River, NJ. During this time – until the beginning of the pandemic - I have also worked with our local parish, Church of the Presentation, hosting talks, and working in the sacrament program.



On Left—Sister Carole with Sister Henrice