

Marta Marie Adams, SSND - 50 Year Jubilee!



It's all Grace.

It's all Grace. If someone would have told me I would be able to be a conduit of God's Grace, I would have been doubtful. Anything good that has happened in my life is totally the action of God's gifts.

I am so grateful for the life I've been given. When someone asks me if I regret the life I've chosen, I say I can't imagine any other life that could have given me more.

During most of my time with SSND I have been in education, starting with junior high students at St. Wenceslaus School in Baltimore and then to St. Peter's in Philadelphia, where I taught sixth-graders, most of whom only spoke Spanish.

I wasn't at St. Peter's very long as I didn't speak Spanish and before long I moved to St. Mary's in Hagerstown, and then to St. Patrick's in Cumberland. The other Sisters at the time used to jokingly tease me a little and they would say, 'What are you doing wrong? You keep getting moved further and further from the Mother House!'

After a period of teaching at St. Mary's in Annapolis, I moved from teaching children to teaching adults. I wasn't sure if I could teach adults, but teaching adults has taught me so much. I began teaching mathematics for adults at the Caroline Friess Center in Baltimore, preparing students for their GED or nursing assistant positions.

I have actually seen some of the nursing students I taught working at Villa Assumpta. It's so rewarding to see these students work so hard and achieve their goals. They are wonderful women who want a good living wage and to be able to take care of their children.

Most recently, I have moved to South Baltimore Learning Center and really enjoy it. It's so powerful for me to see how getting a GED can change people's lives. After my first 100 students got their GED I realized how transformative this was for their lives. I admire my students.

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Unlike grade school, where students have to be there. My adult students choose to be here. Most work full-time jobs and they do the classwork on top of that. It takes a ton of determination.

I've enjoyed every place that I've been, but adult education has a lot of meaning for me. Many of these students have had a lot of difficulties. For so many, they didn't have a good opportunity at school. They've had so many ways they have been chucked aside and ignored. I try to encourage them because a lot of time, teaching them the facts is convincing them that they can do the work.

Throughout this current COVID pandemic, I work with the most magnificent group of people. They all go out of their way to help all their students. And with a little more of God's Grace, I will be joining them and all of my students soon.