

Sister Kathleen Feeley, SSND – 75 Year Jubilee!



Photo by Jane Cayer, SSND

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the Holy Spirit dwells in me
and is recognized by joy."*

Early on in my religious life, I came upon a quotation that has been a lodestar in my life: "Joy is the echo of God's life in us." (Abbot Dom Marmion.) I learned that the Holy Spirit dwells in me and is recognized by joy.

I have always found joy in adventures. When I felt the call to religious life, I wanted to go to "far-away places with strange-sounding names." So I decided to join the Maryknoll Sisters.

When I was a senior at NDP, I woke up one morning, sat up in bed, and said aloud: "No. I want to be an SSND like the sisters who taught me." But then I realized that I would just go down-town to Aisquith St. No adventure. However, I followed the call to SSND and I have had a life full of adventures and joy.

My first adventure was learning how to teach. I learned to teach by teaching in elementary school. From my first experience as a Postulant in Brooklyn (grade 1), to four years in South Carolina (grade 1 and 2), to a year in Bel Air, MD (grades 3 and 4 together), to four years in Riviera Beach, MD, (grades 7 and 8 together), I learned the fundamentals of teaching, plus awareness of students' needs, that I have used all my life.

One example: In South Carolina, I lined up my 60 first graders in the hall in the middle of the morning to visit the restroom. The line passed a drinking fountain, but I did not allow students to leave the line. One day, a little girl confronted me, in the corridor, in front of the whole class. Her cheeks were flushed, her breathing shallow: "I don't know why people MAKE drinking fountains when SOME people don't let OTHER people get drinks." It woke me up to an awareness of students' needs. I will never forget that scene, that lesson. (Cont'd)

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My next assignments gave me external stability, but much adventure: teaching high school English at Notre Dame of Maryland on the Charles St. campus, and then moving the school to Hampton Lane and teaching there; moving back to NDM to teach English at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland; moving to a residence at the Claremont Colleges (a consortium) in Claremont, CA, for an internship in college administration with an experienced administrator of a women's college.

And then a great adventure: becoming President of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in 1971, when our neighbor, Loyola College, with whom we had a vigorous exchange program, became a co-ed college.

New programs at CNDM were an imperative: a Continuing Education Program for married women who were home during the day; a Weekend College for working women who could free up their weekends to advance their careers with a college education; unique Masters degree programs for women and men; day programs that drew women in Baltimore to hear inspiring lectures by outstanding women such as Mother Theresa of Calcutta.

More adventures followed after I left CNDM in 1992.

I had missed teaching, and I wanted to return to it. With the help of Fulbright teaching fellowships and visiting professor invitations, I taught abroad: in Madras, India; at Catholic University of Australia (first semester in Brisbane, second semester in Melbourne); in Kyoto, Japan; in Shanghai, China; then Sunyani, Ghana; and finally, Juba, South Sudan.

When I returned to what had become NDMU, I taught in the School of Education, and was writing editor for dissertation proposals. Then I joined NDMU's Renaissance Institute, and joyfully taught my peers.

The Spirit led me down lots of paths in which I would find joy in teaching.

As I reflect on the past, this I know: "All is gift." And I am filled with gratitude and joy!



**Sisters Kathleen & Cathy
Arata at the Nile River**