

Why I Am CSA!

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I know God is calling, but how can I be sure when? How can I be sure of the next move? How can I be sure this is the right community? How can I be sure what God wants?

My life has been full of questions like these. As a child in grade school I wanted to be a teacher and all of my teachers were Sisters of St. Agnes, so naturally I wanted to be a Sister of St. Agnes, too. Then God made me question things by giving me a lay teacher in 5th grade. Yes, I still felt the call to be a Sister. When 8th grade came I prayed for guidance but didn't get a clear answer as to when I should enter the convent. During my freshman year it became clear that now was the time. Various times during formation God seemed to put something before me to help me question, clarify and reinforce my sense of call. Before the time of making a permanent commitment to CSA and to God I questioned if this were the right community.

Hearing a call from God takes courage. I am grateful to God for that courage to give God the time, to talk with wisdom people and to wrestle with the questions that led me to answering the call.

Now, 35 years later I reflect on the blessings that God has placed in my life as a vowed member of the Sisters of St. Agnes. I am grateful for the time spent in the classroom with children and in school administration. Both gave me the opportunity to share my love for God with others and to help them along the way of a deeper relationship with God. I also received the love and support of the school/parish community. I received challenges that helped me grow. I give thanks for the opportunities I've been given to work with people of other cultures. The world is bigger than my little slice of it. God is bigger than my little view.

The call of baptism, the call of religious life is a call to a deep love relationship with God. This love spills over into love for others and for self. How do I know what God wants? Sometimes the process is messy, but I believe that all love relationships are messy. It is in the messiness that we learn and grow to become the person we are created to be. Sometimes by living in the messiness the voice of God becomes clearer. Sometimes we don't know what God wants. We try one thing and then have to change because we know that it was a wrong turn. Religious life has been the life to which God called me, and it has brought me a sense of peace and love even in times of struggle. I know I am happier than I would be following any other life style. It's right for me.



How does one know if God is calling her to religious life? How does one know that she's chosen the right person to marry? Sometimes you just know.

