

## CSA JUBILARIAN 2019

**Name of Jubilarian:** Monica Justinger

**Name of Birthplace/Hometown:** Defiance, OH

**Education: Schools/colleges/universities attended and degrees received:**

1954-62 St. John the Evangelist, Defiance, Ohio – Grade school  
1962-64 St. Mary Springs, Fond du Lac, WI – High school  
1964-66 Defiance High School – High school  
1966-71 Marian College, Fond du Lac, WI – Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
1983-84 Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio – Master Healthcare Administration  
1986- Fellow American College of Healthcare Executive (FACHE)

**Please name the places where you have ministered; if possible, list years. If you were a teacher, please name the parish or school, location, dates, and grade levels taught:**

1971-74 St. Agnes Hospital, Fond du Lac, WI – Staff Nurse  
1974-83 St. John Rest Home, Victoria, KS – President and CEO  
1984-85 Penrose Hospital, Colorado Springs, CO – Residency; Glockner Inn: Hospital Base SNF – Administrator  
1985-87 Our Lady of the Way Hospital, Martin, KY – President and CEO  
1987-91 Nazareth Heights, Fond du Lac, WI -President and CEO  
1991-92 St. Francis Adult Day Care, Gallup, NM – Open Service  
1992-97 TRIHEALTH Cincinnati, OH – Administrative Director; Director of Coordinated Systems  
1997-15 Berger Health System, Circleville, OH – Vice President; Berger Hospice Executive Director  
2016- Wyngate Senior Living, Circleville, OH – Wellness Manager; Community Relations

*Share a story about a time, an event, or an experience in your vowed life that affirms or speaks to your lifelong commitment as a vowed woman religious.*

*Share what it means to you to be celebrating jubilee in CSA and in the global Church.*

*Share a poem, a prayer, a reflection that has captured for you, the story of your journey in religious life.*

Forty-five plus years ago I wrote an article on WHY SISTERHOOD? It was for a monthly publication by the Department of Vocations – Diocese of Toledo, Ohio.

‘To fight the good fight, to race as one not beating the air, that is my daily aim: that is my daily challenge. To live as fully as I can everyday sounds like some bookish slogan, but it describes why I am a Sister and how God reveals Himself to me.

My decision to enter religious life was only partly my own because I was torn within myself by two opposing voices, my own and that which Moses himself heard on the mountain. To say I idolized nuns would be at least an exaggeration, even though there was one who especially influenced me by her goodness. Rather I felt drawn by a power beyond my capacity to explain it.

Because the conviction I gradually developed can only be described in poetic language let me describe it in terms of a circle. If I were to marry ... my life would have become an enclosed circle revolving around family, beautiful but bound. Religious life, too, can be likened to a circle, but a circle with spokes radiating in myriad directions from a center who is Christ Himself. And like the moon, also a circle, a faithful witness in the sky, my life is symbolic of Christ’s faithful love of all

peoples and our response in faith to that love. Another circle symbolic of Sisterhood and Why... Is the pearl of great price. That pearl is Christ. By my life and being I say to Christ, "For me, You." Like a church building I stand as a visible sign of God's invisible love of all men. And so I stand, not because I am anything particularly outstanding in myself, but because I carry Christ. And I carry Him because of His request that I do so, not because of my worthiness.

United in Christ, then, religious life binds all humanity in love. I am speaking of an ideal, but it is the kind of ideal, colossal as it sounds, that is realizable and will be realized, maybe not within my lifetime, but one day for sure. United with my fellow Sisters, we serve HIS people wherever and whenever that service is needed to help God's kingdom on this earth."