

## *Why I am CSA!*

### *Sister Marie Cecile Kees, CSA*

When was my vocation planted? I guess I could say when I was about five years old. My mother had three of us siblings at her knees teaching us night prayers. At one point she made a comment, "Wouldn't it be nice if one of our girls would become a Sister?" For me the seed was planted!



Arriving at the age of thirteen, I questioned my vocation. I desired fun times like going out dancing with my friends, or joining a group doing things for the parish. My uncle, a Divine Word priest, was sure I had a vocation to the Sisters of Divine Word. I told my mother I didn't want to go there, neither did I want to go to any convent!

Yet God kept calling, inviting but not pushing. The thought kept coming to my mind again and again. It was almost as if a stationary cloud was over my head.

I began praying the Memorare each evening before retiring. I wanted to do God's will, believing only in that will I would be happy. I struggled with myself for six years. Finally, one night while waiting for sleep to come, I pictured myself in a convent. An utter peace came over me. That was it. I no longer wanted to struggle with the idea. I got myself ready with the help of some wonderful Sisters of St. Agnes.

On August 31, 1947 I entered with my sister who was six years younger than myself. Never have I regretted this decision. I have found utter joy and peace with the Congregation of St. Agnes. Struggles came, yes; but they always helped me mature and become a better person. Thanks be to God.

