

*S. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

*Why I Am CSA!*



There were three answers I would give when, as a child, I was asked: “What are you going to be when you grow up?” I was going to be a Marine - my uncle, who was my hero, was a Marine; I was going to play center field for the New York Yankees - somewhere along the line I had read a book about Lou Gehrig; and I was going to be a Sister - though I was fascinated by religious ritual since kindergarten, my first encounter with Sisters was in third grade. I gave up on a career in the Marines when my uncle died; I realized that playing for the Yankees was out of the question; but I never stopped wanting to be a Sister.

I must admit that I have no idea what attracted me to religious life. I was certainly too young to think about mission or commitment. It was not unusual in those days for young girls who went to parochial school to entertain that possibility. All I know is that I never really wanted to be anything else. I admired the Sisters who taught me and I wanted to be one of them. For me, the issue was not why I entered, but why I stayed. For me, discernment took place after I entered the congregation, not before.

One might ask: ‘How did you know?’ I don’t know how I knew; I just knew. That is not to say that there was no uncertainty. I do not believe there is any life where one does not struggle with some kind of uncertainty. However, I firmly believe that if we follow the insights that we gain along the way, even if we make mistakes, those mistakes will not destroy us. We might have to suffer because of them, but if we are faithful to the insights, life will unfold with marvelous possibilities.

