



FAITH & ADVERSITY LEAD TO GENEROUS COMMITMENT

By Diane Legris



My Christian vocation, as instilled in me by my Anglican parents, has always been to live a life that would be pleasing to God. This includes offering help to people in need, being there in times of distress and assisting where I can, with the gifts I possess.

In 1983 I met the man who later became my second husband. He invited me to go with him to his Catholic parish, Our Lady of Mercy in Enoch, Alta. The parish was blessed with a pastor named Father Khiet Nguyen, a member of the Oblate missionaries of Mary Immaculate who suffered from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease).

A few years later I participated in the parish process of Christian initiation which he facilitated with lay leaders and became a Catholic in 1996. One of the people who surrounded Father Khiet with love and compassion was Sister Fay Trombley, SCIC, then of Edmonton and now of Tuktoyaktuk, N.W.T.

She thought I would do well with the Associates and took me to a meeting. Thus began my journey of preparation to become an SCIC Associate. I participated in regular Associate meetings, as well as earlier gatherings for inquirers to learn about Association with Sister Fay, as well as Sister Aline Roulston -- now of Saint John, N.B. -- and Sister Gertrude Mulholland of Sherwood Park, Alta.

To me, Association means to live the SCIC charism: Charity, always charity. We must help and treat those in need with the same respect and in the same loving way that we ourselves expect to be treated. We must convey hope, comfort and a feeling of self-worth to those we meet and in so doing, be an active part of the SCIC legacy.

We also need to be a support to each other, encouraging other Associates in their individual parish and wider community involvements, as well as in family life. We also seek to offer strength to one another, and to be leaned on in times of difficulty and/or waning commitment to our mission.

Hard Work & Creativity

I was born and raised in Winnipeg, Man. and because my father was an Anglican deacon, our lives naturally revolved around the church. I married my first husband and had two daughters and one son. The family moved to find employment first to Calgary and then to Fort McMurray, Alta. My husband and I separated in 1967 and were later divorced.

Alone then, with three small children in tow, I moved to Edmonton. I worked hard raising my family alone. I had a day job, taught dancing, piano and voice and sang with a musical trio. This often took me away from the family on Friday and Saturday nights, but the extra money was a blessing.

Music has been a huge part of my life, from singing on the radio at three-and-a-half years of age, to performing in full-blown musical theatre productions in Calgary and then Edmonton, Alta.

In 1989 I remarried and became stepmother to two grown stepdaughters and one adult stepson. I am now “Nana” to 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

After my husband passed away in 2010, I moved to the east end of Edmonton, but Our Lady of Mercy Parish at Enoch is still “home”. I have been involved with the parish council, the finance committee, the Cursillo movement and music ministry.

I have also been a lector and communion minister and willingly volunteer wherever I am needed. On Tuesday afternoons, I also help a terrific group of volunteers who cut hair for homeless persons at the Bissell Centre in Edmonton’s inner city. I accompany another Associate, Agathe Joly and assist her in coordinating the team of volunteers. *(For more about this ministry, see separate item on this page.)*

I feel fulfilled now, hoping to be a positive influence, sharing my gifts, helping where I can and trusting that God put me where I am needed. I also enjoy creating beautiful pieces of stained glass art.

I love this quotation by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross: “People are like stained glass windows: they sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light within.” *Let’s keep our light on!*

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