

Sister Mary Black *By Judy Wasserman*



Pictured: Mark Ciommo, City Councilor, speaks with Sister Mary Black.

Sister Mary Black readily admits she “misses teaching a lot.” But, that hasn’t stopped her from enjoying her retirement, and “dabbling” in many different interests. Sister Mary finds that now, she can be more prayerful, and has time to read and learn more. Her days are filled with a variety of activities, as well. She is a consultant to the Office of Mission Advancement for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, a volunteer for a safe house for women who have been victims of human trafficking, a visitor to Sisters residing at Bethany Healthcare Center on a regular schedule, takes a water aerobics class, and visits with a former aerobics participant who is now in an assisted living facility. Sister Mary also volunteers at Cathedral High School and visits a friend who is in prison. She believes her visits to the prison are more meaningful now because she has more time to spend there. She can “really listen now.” Talking to people, helps her to connect to them. “I appreciate the time I have to relate to people more.”

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Sister Mary “retired” in 2012 after spending 33 years at Cathedral High School in the South End, as a teacher and as the director of development. Enthusiastic in the classroom and as an administrator, or raising funds for the school, Sister Mary looks at Cathedral High School as “a very special, wonderful place.” Nowadays, she volunteers there by helping with specific fundraising events such as the annual golf tournament. Before she arrived at Cathedral High School, sister taught at: Walnut Park School, Newton, St. Theresa School, West Roxbury, St. Thomas School, Jamaica Plain, and at St. Columbkille High School, Brighton, where she had been principal for three years.

Sister was also novice director for the Congregation for eight years and worked with a Latino social service agency for two years. Politics has been and still is an interest of hers. Sister Mary has served with a Catholic Social Justice lobbying group and is now a board member of the Brighton Board of Trade and the St. Helena House in the South End.

If that is not enough, she is on the CSJ committee creating the Dare to Dream Dinner to celebrate the 140th year of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston.

Having entered in 1949, Sister Mary said this first year of retirement has been a time for “exploring and trying new things.” Stay tuned for what’s next! †