

A Life and Vocation Impelled by God's Love



The town of Brookline provided a happy childhood for the large Irish Catholic families who grew up there during the depression. Everyone in Sister Alice's neighborhood attended St. Mary of the Assumption School, where Alice came to love the Sisters of St. Joseph, and most especially her fifth-grade teacher, Sister Roderick. Reflecting back, she feels that it was her very devout and observant mother, along with Sister Roderick, who sowed the "seeds" of her vocation.

While Sister Alice was in high school, her mother was in poor health, so gradually, more and more responsibilities fell to the children. Alice took on the tasks of cooking and cleaning while maintaining high grades and participating enthusiastically in sports: basketball, swimming, and softball. By her senior year, Alice knew she wanted to enter the Sisters of Saint Joseph, but her mother's health rapidly deteriorated, so she stayed home to take care of her and began working in Boston. Shortly thereafter, her mother died, and Alice, with the support of her Dad and siblings, entered the novitiate knowing that she was fulfilling their mother's dearest desire.

Following her novitiate, Sister taught at a local diocesan school while earning her A.B. degree from Regis College, with a major in French and a minor in Spanish. Sister Alice was next missioned to The Boston School for Deaf and Aphasic Children, a ministry that had a huge impact on her future religious life. She received her Master's in Special Education at Boston University and continued on to obtain a CAGS (Certificate in Advanced Graduate Study) in Speech and Language Pathology. After working with the deaf for three years, she went to St. Louis to study and become certified in teaching aphasic children. Returning to the Boston School, Sister Alice became a teacher in the new and groundbreaking Aphasic Department, soon becoming Director of the Department. She was appointed Superintendent of the Boston School for a period before establishing and becoming the Director of the Diagnostic Clinic.

After 30 years at the Boston School, Sister went on to become a professor in the Special Education Department at Bridgewater State University. In 1990, she was elected to the Leadership Team of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph. After her term was completed, she became Director of the English Transcultural Center at St. Patrick's Parish, Brockton, providing language, social, and legal services to immigrants. Her most recent ministry was with the Office of Sponsored Ministries of the Congregation.

Sister Alice has a large, close family of four siblings, many nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews with whom she enjoys spending time. In her retirement, she continues to witness to her beloved CSJ charism as a grant writer, a member of the Shawl Ministry, a Sacristan at the Motherhouse Chapel, and as a volunteer for activities and events at Bethany Health Care Center and St. Joseph Preparatory High School.

