

Sister Mary L. Murphy, CSJ

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“grace of the office.”**



Sister Mary L. Murphy grew up in the Savin Hill section of Dorchester, attended St. William Grammar School and Mount Saint Joseph Academy. She was very involved with parish life, marching with St. William Band, and keeping contact with the Sisters of Saint Joseph. During her senior year, she was in a serious relationship with a young man and thought about attending Business School. Since she was the oldest of four children and her father had recently passed away, she suggested to her mother that she get a job and help out at home. At the same time, the call to religious life continued to nag at her. Her mother seemed to sense it and wisely told

her “I didn’t raise you to take care of me. You have your life to live, so do so.” Sister Mary soon entered the novitiate with the Sisters of Saint Joseph where she thought she would try it out, maybe give it six weeks. Now, so many years of committed service later, she can say with great enthusiasm, “I do believe I was called and I’m fulfilling that call! God had plans for me. It just took me more time to cooperate with the call!”

Sister Mary received her A.S. from Aquinas College, her B.S. from Salem State College, and her M.Ed. from Boston College. She did post-graduate studies at Loyola University, Chicago, Loyola University, Los Angeles, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Between family and ministry, Sister Mary has had the opportunity to travel to Asia, Africa, and Europe. She loves to read non-academic novels and has belonged to a book club for over 20 years. The theatre is one of her first loves, and her family finds a way to include her in most of their theatre adventures!

In her ministries, Sister Mary taught at Newton Catholic High School, and then Director of Guidance at Cardinal Cushing Central High School, in South Boston. She became Vice-Principal of Saint Gregory High School in Dorchester and then Principal of Mount Saint Joseph Academy in Brighton. Following her ten years as Principal, she worked in Guidance at Xaverian Brothers High School in Westwood. In 2000, she was elected by her sisters to the Leadership Team of the Sisters of Saint Joseph as First Councilor and then in 2006, as President of the Congregation. Sister Mary is currently an Assistant Professor at Regis College in Weston.



“With every position I’ve ever held, I’ve experienced the “grace of the office.” It’s all about relationships and teamwork. It’s all about ministry and service, all about education in some shape or form.” She loves the quote from the King and I, “If you become a teacher, by your students you’ll be taught.” She is so grateful for the lessons and opportunities!