

“I've been blessed to have lived and worked with dedicated CSJs and laypeople. . .”



I grew up in a close-knit neighborhood in St. Peter's Parish in Dorchester, where I attended the grammar school. There was a park at the end of our street where all the neighborhood kids played. I always loved sports and was very active in whatever sport was happening at the time. I even played touch football with the neighborhood boys, and whenever I was not in school, I was at the park. After eighth grade, I moved on to Msgr. Ryan High School, also in Dorchester. After graduation, I worked for the New England Tel. & Tel. in downtown Boston for two years.

During this time, I was discerning my future. A couple of my high school classmates had entered the CSJ novitiate in Framingham, and I was leaning in that direction. After receiving my parents' blessing and being accepted by Reverend Mother Catalina, I entered the novitiate in Framingham on September 15, 1963.

I have worn many hats during my 55 years as a CSJ. While in Framingham, I learned culinary skills from the best who taught not only with their words but by their quiet and caring example. I put these skills to use in Framingham, and also during the year, I was at St. Ambrose in Dorchester. Then I moved on to St. James Kindergarten and Merrimack Montessori in Haverhill, receiving a Montessori teaching certification. I attended Salem State University and earned a B.S. in Education. After that, I spent 15 years at St. Ann's School in Somerville, teaching third grade. Between my time at St. Ann's and coming to The Literacy Connection, I was invited by the principal at St. Theresa's in West Roxbury to work in the business office there. I am very grateful to her as this experience helped me when I moved into my current position as an administrative assistant at The Literacy Connection.

As well as administrative work, I also do some one-on-one tutoring. Two of my first students needed help with citizenship preparation, and they both are now U.S. citizens. My current student is a woman from El Salvador who worked on the family farm as a young child and never attended school there. She comes on Tuesday mornings and greets “Sister Patti” and me with a hug and a smile.

In all my missions and ministries, I've been blessed to have lived and worked with dedicated CSJs and laypeople who inspired me by their faithful commitment to their mission and ministry, as well as their prayer life.

