

May 2018

Dear Friends,

Sister Mary Hauke first felt the beginnings of a call to religious life when she was in the first grade. As the years went by and Mary graduated from grade school and then high school, she made a decision that would eventually become a turning point in her life: Mary decided to attend Alverno College.

It was at Alverno that she again began to think about the possibility of a call to religious life. The seed of a vocation to religious life that had been planted many years ago began to blossom during her years at Alverno. After her graduation, Mary taught elementary school for five years before making another important decision. She entered the School Sisters of St. Francis and was received into the community in 1981. Today, after earning a master's degree in ethics and theology, and participating in a variety of ministerial experiences, she continues to minister to others as a chaplain.

Thank you, Sister Mary, for all you have done and for all you continue to do as you reach out to others, showing Christ's love to all you meet.

Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, OSF
Vocation Minister

Women of Hope is the monthly electronic newsletter from the Membership and Relationship Team of the School Sisters of St. Francis for single Catholic women interested in exploring God's call in their lives. To learn more, please contact Sister Beth Ann Baricevich: babaricevich@sssf.org or 414-550-0321.

Connected Through Community

By Sister Ruth Hoerig

Sister Mary Hauke attended Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School on Milwaukee's south side and found herself attracted to religious life as early as the first grade, though she didn't think seriously about becoming a sister until much later. After graduating from Pulaski High School, Mary attended Alverno College. Again, she found herself thinking about religious life. "I wanted to contribute to the good of society, but wanted to do it with others. Religious life seemed to be the best way to do this," she said.

After graduating from Alverno College, Mary taught the elementary grades for five years. Then, in 1979 at age 28, she entered the School Sisters of St. Francis in Milwaukee. She was received into the community in January 1981.

"My formation consisted of an 'inter-community novitiate,' including OFM-Capuchins, Camillus fathers and brothers, and novices from the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Agnesian sisters and Divine Savior sisters," Sister Mary recalls. "One day per week was devoted to our novitiate formation. Some of our formation experiences included several weeks of clinical pastoral education and opportunities for extended conferences focusing on Scripture and Franciscan Spirituality.

"As novices we were encouraged to find employment for the rest of the week," Sister Mary said. "One of my favorite experiences was living with our retired sisters in Campbellsport during the summer months, where I helped out by washing windows and gardening."

Mary made her first profession of vows in November 1982. Her first ministry experience consisted of a hospital chaplaincy for the Franciscan sisters in Springfield, followed by a campus ministry position at two colleges in Aurora, Illinois. She then took time off to earn a master's degree in ethics and theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

"As I look back, some of my more satisfying experiences were serving as a chaplain in various hospitals, and the work I did as a consultant in public policy and ethics research for our Wisconsin Province Institutional Sponsorship Services." Sister Mary said the book *Francis: The Journey and the Dream* by Father Murray Bodo offered a poetic text of inspirational reflections that helped to sustain her during the more challenging times.

"My religious life has been especially blessed through supportive relationships and good spiritual directors," Sister Mary said. "These two factors are especially important today in a world where so many others feel alienated and lost. My current community is making the presence of religious women more visible among our Hispanic neighbors, especially through block clubs. For me, community life is key."

Please join us May 19 for "Mindfulness for Today's World: Preparing for Peace" and June 2 for a luncheon dialogue with calligrapher Michael Podesta. For details, call 414-385-5272, email doloughlin@sssf.org, or visit our [Facebook Events page](#).

