

What the Sisters Mean to Me

Dr. Marlene Pinzka, OSF

CST graduate 1967; Taught Mathematics at CST from 1980-1989

As a member of the CST class of 1983, it goes without saying that The Rochester Franciscan Sisters have imprinted themselves deep within my heart. I am forever grateful for these amazing, strong, caring, womyn who live out the values of the Saints Francis and Clare and Mother Alfred. These good womyn enabled me to find my true self and be able to live out my call in this world with the joys and challenges of life throughout my life!

I want to lift up Dr. Marlene Pinzka, OSF. We both arrived at CST the same year, Sister Marlene as faculty in the Mathematics Department, and me, as a student. Yes, Sister Marlene was at CST previously as a student. Her caring for our learning as students was evident at the start. Sister Marlene held special sessions before tests, outside of class, to help us study. I had never experienced such care and concern for learning before. I was deeply touched because this was a tough course for all of us, including Sister Marlene, since this was the first time she taught calculus. Sister Marlene's office door was always open for students to come and ask questions. It was here that a lifelong friendship was sparked. We shared well beyond the questions posed within calculus class.

As I continued on in my mathematics education, I felt welcomed into Sister Marlene's office to explore classes, ask questions about classes and more. I was grateful to be able to take additional classes from Sister Marlene. Her family home was on the way home for me, so a few times I had the pleasure of driving Sister Marlene to Sleepy Eye, where she would visit with her mom, as I headed to Balaton to visit my mom.

I was again blessed when I was called to be a Cojourner with the Sister of St. Francis AND to have Sister Marlene as my companion Sister on this journey. It certainly cemented what was already there, a lasting friendship. Sister Marlene, thank you for your love and prayers and your continued presence in my life. I am grateful and I am blessed.



Rosine Hermodson-Olsen '83