

What the Sisters Mean to Me

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

I know the Sisters of Saint Francis touched many students' lives at the College of Saint Teresa, but I have to admit one favorite Sister changed my life forever. I met her my freshman year as my teacher for a math class. I thought she was a wonderful math teacher, but I really didn't have an affinity for math. I LOVED science, and spent my first few years gobbling up all the science classes I could. Our paths would not cross again until late in my junior year at CST.

During the Spring of my junior year, there was a ceremony out in the courtyard outside of Lourdes Hall. I really wasn't familiar with this tradition called "Campus Court" and as the names were called out for the court, I wasn't really paying all that much attention until they got to the last name, "The Queen," and somehow, they called my name! All of a sudden, I am standing up in front of the group in complete shock. This must be a mistake! I demand a recount! I thought to myself. Maybe I could be a member of Campus Court, but I sure couldn't lead the group! How could this happen? People must not realize all my faults and weaknesses.

I was filled with anxiety when I had to go to the very first meeting of the Campus Court. I wasn't "enough" and everyone would know that and see that, and there was nothing I could do. But everything changed at that first meeting. When I arrived, there was that Sister I knew from math class, Sister Marlene Pinzka, who would be our group's advisor. She had the warmest smile and calmest presence. If you know her, you know exactly what I mean!

Sister Marlene taught me so much that year. Yes, I would make mistakes and things may not have gone perfectly, but if I approached all our group wanted to accomplish with a spirit of service and love, that should be my goal. Working in the spirit of Christ's light and love, I was enough! Every encounter that year, working as a team on the Court, coordinating food with the kitchen, choosing charities to support, speaking with students, went well when I humbly remembered what Sister Marlene taught me.

Fast forward some 30 years or so. Being one of the "younger" CST alums, a graduate of 1987, I am still working full-time at my paid pharmacist position, but I have to admit that my favorite day of the week is now Monday. Mondays after work, I am fortunate to volunteer at the Women's Life Care Center in Little Canada, Minnesota. There I help pregnant women and their unborn babies with the support and resources they need to choose life. Once again, it is not about me, but the Holy Spirit working through me.

When we humbly place our trust in Christ, He takes care of our worries and insecurities. I will be forever grateful for the amazing experiences at the College of Saint Teresa that shaped my future, especially the influence of the Sisters of Saint Francis, and my dear friend in Christ, Sister Marlene.

Rose Campanaro Carlson '87