

Associates Corner **by Olga Sarabia, SSS Associate**

Many in our SSS Community are aware that I came to Los Angeles directly to Stella Maris after graduating with my MSW from Loyola University, Chicago. That was in 1968. Last year was my 50th year of relationship with the SSS; 18 years as an Associate.

Some close friends are also aware that my father gave his children choices to come to the United States from the Dominican Republic for high school and/or college. Since I wanted to experience the US, my choice for high school was St. Mary's Academy in Monroe, Michigan. My sister, Miriam, chose Marygrove College in Detroit for her higher education. It was important to my parents that I be located close to my sister since I was only 14 years old at the time. Both academic institutions belong to the Sisters Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, IHM Sisters.

I was just reminded of my time in Monroe at our recent March Assembly. Sister Nancy Sylvester, IHM was an excellent speaker at the Assembly, and happens to be from the same Community that ran St. Mary's Academy, where I went to high school.

Sister Nancy says that she currently lives with four other IHMs at Marygrove. Such a small world! Further in conversation with Sister, she remembered that among the duties of their Novices was to serve us, the Academy Boarders, our dinners and do our dishes. It certainly was a good life! Perhaps a perk for being away from home.

Both religious communities – the SSS and the IHMs have been such an important part of my spiritual journey – from my teenage years into my adulthood. I am grateful for the strong friendships I have.

Looking ahead, I hope to participate in Sister Nancy's "Enter the Chaos: Engage the Differences to Make a Difference" A four-day program in Fremont, CA this September.

