

Cathy Brunasso Cota: devoted to the healing arts



As a graduate of both St. Matthias Elementary School '73 and High School '77 in Huntington Park, Cathy Brunasso Cota remembers her schooling and the example of the Sisters of Notre Dame with a deep sense of gratitude. Reflecting on the beginning of her relationship with

the SNDs at St. Matthias Elementary, she recalls, "the SNDs had a profound effect on my life from an early age. I remember in first grade that I was taught to organize my crayons according to the rainbow, which made learning fun. They certainly helped me develop my love for learning."

In high school, Cathy involved herself in student government, also playing on the basketball and volleyball teams. She remembers having Sr. M. Louise Wanamaker for English, and Sr. M. Lisa Megaffin for math. It was evident to her that the SNDs cherished the impact they could have on a student, bringing Christ into that student's life.

After graduating from St. Matthias High School, Cathy studied nursing at California State University Los Angeles, earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Public Health Nurse Credential. For more than 38 years, Cathy has been a nurse, working in both

pediatric intensive care and general pediatrics. She has also served as a triage and advice nurse for eight prominent doctors in Pasadena, and has received two commendations for outstanding patient care.

Currently, Cathy serves as the school nurse at Mayfield Senior School, an all-girls Catholic school in Pasadena. She initiated the health office on campus, and co-created the "Formation of Self Seminars," giving students the opportunity to discuss health-related issues and to learn healthy habits to benefit their daily lives. As mother of two Mayfield alumnae, Cathy knows the importance of health guidance and education.

Cathy also is a member of the board of directors of Friends of Foster Children <www.fofcsgv.org>, a non-profit organization that provides goods, volunteer services and financial support to foster children living in residential treatment centers in the San Gabriel Valley.

As she reflects on the positive attributes the SNDs exemplified she says, "The SNDs are educators...*loving* educators. They take a personal interest in their students as people. They are relatable women who stay current in the world and show through example how Christ can be a part of our daily lives." Similarly, Cathy's devotion to the healing arts brings Christ's compassion and care into the lives of those she serves.