

# *Sr. Suzanne Rivard, p.m.*



*The  
Will of God  
will never take you  
where the  
Grace  
of God  
will not protect you.*



As I ponder my vocation story, I realize that mine was a very gradual process that started at a young age. Throughout my educational journey, I was taught by the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary. Theirs was a powerful influence in my young life. Living in the school's neighborhood, I often stayed after school hours to be "helpful" in whatever jobs I could accomplish. My earliest memories of these wonderful after-school hours were as a third grader. Sr. Lorraine Pinette spent many patient hours with me. I soon began feeling comfortable with the sisters. As the years progressed so did my friendship with them. My summers were spent at the local playground and helping the sisters who were the church sacristans. The more I interacted with the sisters the greater my level of comfort grew. The spirit among them was one of joy.

As my high school journey was coming to an end, I started looking more specifically into my future. The sisters' commitment to my education certainly influenced my vocation choice.

Once I entered religious life, I soon realized that what was most important in all of my teachers' lives was their relationship with Jesus, and so my focus became my relationship with Him. During my first year, I heard Jesus tell me, "I call you, friend..." (John 15:15) Since then my relationship with Jesus has been central. For more than 40 years, my sisters have helped me to deepen my love for Jesus.

At profession each sister prays for perseverance in her commitment: "With the grace of God and the help of my sisters." Yes, as a community we challenge each other to continually grow in our love for Jesus, our spouse. As we deepen our prayer life, this love overflows to all those we meet in our ministries. Our mission as Sisters of the Presentation of Mary is:

to know Jesus Christ  
to live Jesus Christ  
to reveal and teach Jesus Christ

