

*Sister Joachim Kaufmann, SCC
Tucson, Arizona*

How long have you been a Sister of Christian Charity?

I have been a Sister of Christian Charity for 42 years. I am from Detroit, MI, and was taught by the Sisters of Christian Charity for 12 years.

The Sisters always told me that they thought I had a vocation but I did not want to hear of it. I was 25 years old when I entered the Sisters of Christian Charity, having attended Michigan State College (University now) for one year and having been engaged twice.



How did you know you wanted to be a Sister?

How did you become a Sister?

I always said if there is one vocation I was not going to enter — it was religious life. God had other plans. I kept in contact with the Sisters of Christian Charity and at least sent Christmas Cards to two very special Sisters who taught me in high school. In 1960 I went to Wilmette, IL, for a weekend to visit these two special Sister friends of mine. Driving back to Detroit, Michigan, the hand of God was upon me. I knew somehow that I wanted to be a Sister. I immediately began the preparations for entering the Sisters of Christian Charity; six months candidacy, six months postulancy, two years novitiate and five years in temporary vows. On August 15, 1969, I made my final vows and received a gold wedding band that showed that I was a bride of Christ.

Do you have any interesting stories about your life as a Sister?

During my years as a Sister of Christian Charity I have been in education. I taught in grade schools and high schools; inner-city schools and suburban schools. I have been in schools in Illinois and Louisiana. Several summers I taught the children of prison guards. After three weeks in Rome this summer and then two weeks of "walking in the steps" of my community's Foundress,

Blessed Pauline von Mallinckrodt, in Paderborn, Germany, I feel renewed and ready to begin my seventh year at our Lady of the Valley Parish in Green Valley, AZ.

Presently I am director of Religious Education in there. I recruit and train teachers, prepare children for sacraments and often work one-on-one with parents.

What is your favorite thing about being a Sister?

Leading what I call a balanced life. Prayer time is important. I love being with the children and helping. It thrills me when I am teaching them about our Church and our faith. In the past when we entered religious life we used to think that we "left the world", now we are totally involved with children, adults, and causes. Each year I walk in the Right to Life march. I proudly walk with teens, the elderly and families. I love being with the children and adults to help in any way that I can.

Sister Joachim passed away in April, 2010.