



Why am I still a Sister of St. Martha in 2020?

Sr. Franklyn Ferguson, CSM

Once upon a time when I was a teen I desired to be married and have ten children. Why ten is unclear. I first felt the call when I was in Grade 9 when the class was asked by a visiting dignitary “*who would want to be a Nun?*” As I raised my hand, everyone laughed as I was seen as an initiator of classroom devilry. After graduation, I worked in the Department of Education secretarial pool for three years prior to entering the convent. I loved life, dancing, sports, friends and, of course, boys. We had lots of fun, but God was at work in it all and kept pulling at my spirit. I finally answered the call and joined the Sisters of St. Martha of Antigonish, NS on February 15, 1961.



Why the Marthas? I was attracted to their earthiness, their sense of being with the people on the streets and in hospitals caring for others and so the story goes. I was very happy when I did my pre-entry visit with Sister Clarissa Chisholm, the Administrator of St. Rita Hospital who told me to make sure I took my skates and bathing suit, among other things of course.

I have been living my life as a Martha for over fifty years and I feel very blessed to be a Martha. I am a part of a wonderful Congregation of Apostolic Women Religious answering the Call.

*we seek to deepen communion among ourselves and those we encounter;
we desire to bring a contemplative and compassionate heart to our fractured world;
we witness to life-giving choices and promote integral ecology;
we broaden circles of Gospel Hospitality.*

from CSM Direction Statement, Chapter 2019

We believe in what we do; we share our resources; we have come from having nothing financially while building hospitals, opening schools, caring for and walking with many others along the way. We have served as homemakers, teachers, nurses, administrators and social workers over the past years and presently as spiritual directors, chaplains, community workers, parish workers and prayer participants/ a powerhouse of prayer in our senior years. Hopefully, our circles of hospitality are continuing to expand.



So where do I stand at this time? I continue to be a clinical social worker in private practice. I owe my post-secondary education and a great deal of my personal growth to the Marthas. They have touched me, and I have grown! I have come from a loving family who have nurtured me all my life and continues to do so.

My personal motto has always been “God will provide”. This has been my belief throughout the years, and I continue to believe that God is within and around me, guiding my every breath.

I am very proud to be a Sister of St. Martha of Antigonish. I am honored to be counted as one of them.