

“In the Scriptures Jesus went about doing good. He did not hide from the world.”

In the early 1990's Sister Jane Fladung composed the following to send to a young pen-pal. As we begin sharing our Call Stories with our readers we chose Sister Jane's story first.

What I would like to share with you is that I have been overwhelmed at God's goodness and love for me. I grew up (born 12/6/22) in the country

five and one-half miles from the little Catholic settlement of Olpe, KS where the Catholic Church and School were located. I was the fourth girl followed by another sister and then four brothers. We all went to a one room country school about a mile and a half from home. When it was the year to make our First Holy Communion, we stayed with an uncle and an aunt who lived only 2 ½ miles from the Catholic School and we could walk that far. It was at the time of my First Communion when I first felt the desire or call to follow Christ as a Sister. Now 60+ years later, I know that it has been the best way for me to be Christ to others.

We had Franciscan Sisters and priests in all the surrounding parishes at that time. My dad's sister, who died when I was five, was also a Franciscan. Hence, I really didn't know there were any other kind; so I intended to join them. As I grew older, I learned

that I had a Benedictine first cousin in Texas who could go home every three years and stay in her family's home (not in the local convent) for a two week visit. This was much more lenient than the Franciscans. So I thought to myself, "In the Scriptures Jesus went about doing good. He did not hide from the world." So when I was 15 and ready to begin my junior year in high school, I entered St. Scholastica Convent in Fort Smith, AR on Aug. 28, 1939, where my cousin belonged. I knew nothing about St. Benedict or his rule, or his sister St. Scholastica. My dad's mother was Scholastica, so perhaps she was pulling some strings in Heaven. However, I learned that St. Benedict was a person of his times and that appealed to me very much and continues to do so. This is certainly an entirely different world than when I entered and I have been called to be involved in many different ministries and to be Christ to others in various situations. I have beautiful memories of such good happenings and



I like to think that heaven will be made up of wonderful memories and lovely people. This world is a ship and heaven is our home. Although it wasn't always easy, I have never once regretted the life on which I embarked many years ago and I intend to live Christ forever.



Sr. Mary Jane Fladung, O.S.B.

Benedictine Sisters,
Our Lady of Peace Monastery
Columbia, Missouri

