



# Sisters of the Holy Family

Current Ministries of  
Sisters of the Holy

Family include:

- Religious Education
- Day Homes
- Parish Administration
- Pastoral Care
- Teaching
- Social Services
- Home Visiting
- Special Education
- ESL Education
- Grief Counseling
- Personal Growth
- Senior Adult Ministry

## Ministry . . . Reflecting Our Charism in Our Work



### Sister Charleen O'Brien

When I entered, I was drawn to the idea of teaching children about God and thought my ministry would be catechetical. Our Mother General thought I belonged working with the children in our Day Homes. She was

right, that was a perfect fit for me. I grew up with seven siblings, so taking care of children seemed natural to me and I loved it. Day Homes were one of our first ministries, started by Sister Dolores in San Francisco in the 1880s to provide a safe, nurturing place where parents could leave their children when they went to work. It continues to be a real need for working class people in our country.

At the Day Homes, I always had a little "Holy Table" in my classroom where we began each day. So I actually wove catechetical ministry into my Day Home ministry. Eventually I worked at every Day Home that Sisters of the Holy Family had, which meant I moved a lot.

After 26 years, I decided it was time to stop running after the little ones all day and I changed from working with children to working with the elderly. From one extreme to

the other. I went to school for a Clinical Pastoral Education Certificate and became a Chaplain. I worked at a hospital in the Los Angeles area providing spiritual and emotional care for surgical and emergency room patients. I loved that work. It brought me into contact with so many different people and I was able to minister to people of every denomination and faith.

Now I am working at a Senior Day Health Center in Mountain View. The goal of the Center is to make it possible for seniors to continue to live at home and not go into a nursing home. The Center provides nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and social services for the participants. I dance with them, sing with them, play games, tell stories and take walks. Some participants come every day, others come a couple of days a week, depending on their own needs. For the family of the participants, having their loved ones enrolled in the program allows the caregivers to continue their lives, go to work and know that their parent or spouse is being taken care of.

Being a Sister of the Holy Family has enriched me and each ministry has been special. I continue to love my vocation with the Sisters, especially being with our seniors.