

### **Sister Charlene Mader – 60 years**

Sister Charlene entered the Franciscans in Millvale from St. Peter Parish on the South Side of Pittsburgh, Pa. Her early years in the community found her teaching in junior high school classes in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

In 1956, Sister Charlene made her first trip to Puerto Rico where she taught at Colegio San Antonio for seven years. She served as science teacher at Mount Alvernia High School for 10 years and another eight years as principal. Since then, she has ministered as vice-principal at Daniel Murphy Catholic High School in Los Angeles, Calif. and presently as chemistry teacher at Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School in Montebello, Calif.

Religious life for Sister Charlene has been very fulfilling, very interesting and full of surprises. She says there's never a dull moment. She recalls fondly those seven years she spent in Puerto Rico where she had the opportunity to be totally immersed in a different culture. "I feel that this was the driving force that led me to search out the schools at which I have taught in Los Angeles," she explains. In my current school we have a large group of international students from Asia plus the major enrollment which is 92 percent Hispanic."

Sister Charlene felt influenced in her decision to follow the Franciscan way of life through the goodness and happiness she saw in the community life of the sisters who taught her, especially her seventh grade teacher, Sister Charlotte Heinz. Now, she herself finds the happiness she saw in her teachers, as she endeavors to develop students' potential and show them their worth.

Sister Charlene enjoys all California has to offer in the way of nature – the ocean, mountains and desert – and finds these gifts of God bringing her closer to the Creator of all the beauty she sees in them. It is here she experiences her favorite quote from Scripture: "Be still and know that I am God."

Sister Charlene enjoys gardening and traveling and admits that at the age of 69+ she went snorkeling in the Pacific Ocean!