



## **BVM Stories**

### **Sister-Student Relationships Foster BVM Legacy**

Students at Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa, looked forward to spending an hour each week with “their” BVM sister during the past spring semester. Not only did they learn more of the history of the religious sisters who founded their university, but they made lifelong friends and were inspired to a greater awareness of life, purpose and spirituality.

After several meetings with sisters the students conducted video interviews that will be preserved in the BVM archives. You can view a snippet of each of these interviews as sisters share how they were “Open to the Call.”

### **Student/Sister Pairing: Rebekah Harvey and Jane Rogers, BVM (Jananne)**



### **Student Reflection**

When signing up for a new experience, you never quite know what to expect. This was true for the oral history project that I agreed to. I knew I would be meeting with a Catholic sister weekly, but I had no idea it would develop into a dear friendship that I will cherish for a lifetime. From the very first time I met Jane Rogers, I knew we were a great fit for this project. There was a joy that Jane expressed while talking that I now strive to have for myself. She is a beautiful woman of God both inside and out and I am forever grateful for this project which brought us together.

Jane has experienced so much throughout her lifetime, yet always wants to learn more. This is an aspiration that I think so many people are lacking and it was refreshing to see Jane’s desire for learning. She also has had and continues to have a strong desire to teach. Teaching is the primary reason she entered the sisterhood. She talks often about how the teaching of the BVMs was simply the best she could find and so she joined them at a young age and has grown to love the BVM community.

Each time Jane and I would meet we would easily dive into conversation as if we had known each other for more than just a few weeks. We both shared aspects of our lives and stories of how God has worked through us and made us into the people we are today. I think it is a beautiful story—how Jane went through loss as a child and now runs a grief group every couple of months to help others who have gone through great loss. It is proof that God is always working and molding our lives.

Within the first month of getting to know Jane, I had a dance performance at Clarke. We had been talking together and I shared with Jane about this performance. She immediately said that she would love to come and watch me perform, which she did. It meant the world to me that she was willing to take time out of her day to come and watch me perform. The relationship was fairly new, but I knew she truly cherished me as a person and was willing to invest time into my life, including coming to the dance performance.

Overall, I am so blessed to call Jane a friend. Each time we leave each other we always hug and say "I love you," because there truly is love between us. God has done great things through this oral history project and I am grateful to have been a part of it.

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