



## **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: Vanessa Ulloa and Judy Callahan, BVM (Eugene Mary)**



#### **Student Reflection**

I consider myself lucky to have been able to participate in the BVM oral history project. I learned that a simple “Hello, how are you doing?” can make a person’s day, as well as open doors. As I walked around campus one day and said hello to a friend, I heard about this project and was very excited. Typically, I went on the semester retreat to get a “spiritual fix,” but for some reason there was not going to be a retreat during the semester that this project came to my attention. I have always been curious about the religious life and this sounded like the perfect experience.

I had no idea what to expect going into the project but as I finished it I can say that I have gained a greater understanding of true spirituality and a lifelong friend. I was paired up with Sister Judy Callahan and we had a great time throughout the experience. I learned that a religious sister is not much different than a typical human being.

One thing that really stood out to me about her experience as a religious was her doubt about not being holy enough to become a sister. I think we all have doubts at some point in our spiritual journey of life, but it is nice to know that even someone who gives her life to God also runs into those instances of doubt. If we allow ourselves to explore the doubt in our lives, we can find something truly beautiful, such as a heightened trust for what God’s plan is.

As bummed out as I was that there was not going to be a spiritual retreat that semester, God had a plan for Sister Judy and me to meet. As Sister Judy reminisced about her spiritual journey, she allowed me to learn from her experience and find a greater understanding for the love that God has for all of us.