



Sisters of the Holy Family

*The decision to
answer a call to
religious life is
different for every
woman.*

*One Sister of the
Holy Family shares
her own personal
"vocation story."*

*V*ocation . . . Answering A Call To Religious Life

By Sister Marie Stafford, SHF

My first contact with the Holy Family Sisters was in 1949 at Holy Family Day Home in San Francisco - seeing the Sisters giving the love and care to the children, helping families in need, and always among the people seeking ways to help the community spiritually, and always there when there was a need.

In 1951 I started my journey of faith as a Sister of the Holy Family. The last 60 years I have been able to share the message of the gospel through catechetical ministry, preparation for the sacraments, home visiting, and sick calls to the hospitals and homebound.

I am so grateful for the privilege of ministering in parishes in Long Beach and in Santa Paula, Fremont; St. Edward's, Newark; St. Philip Neri, Alameda; and my 11 years in the Mission Office of the Diocese of Oakland, California.

So many people have blessed my life within the last



60 years and I am so grateful to my family, my Holy Family Sisters, the Daughters of Charity, and many friends for being part of my lifelong journey.

All I can say is "Thanks from a grateful heart."