

Silver Jubilarian Celebrating 25 Years (1985-2010)

Sister Penny Dunn, OSF

Sister Penny Dunn, daughter of the late William and Marion Dunn, entered the Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, St. Anthony Village, MN, on January 1, 1982. She made her First Profession of Vows on August 3, 1985. Her professional background includes studies at the University of Minnesota and Anoka Technical Institute in MN. She received a B.A. and B.I.S degree from Lourdes College in Sylvania and a M.T.S. degree from the University of Dallas, TX.

Her pastoral and religious formation ministry for the past 25 years has been at parishes in Sylvania, OH, Corsicana, TX and in Blaine and Shoreview, MN. Sister Penny is currently Director of Formation at St. Odilia Church in Shoreview, MN.

When recently asked why she became a Sylvania Franciscan, Sister Penny recalled that she “fought” the call to religious life until she was 30 and when she met some Sylvania Franciscans, she was attracted to their joyful and hospitable spirit. She saw them living a well balanced life of prayer and ministry as well as taking time to have fun together—they had a real spirit of celebration! She also credits her vocation to her parents who taught her to share, to love and to enjoy life as well as the importance of prayer and being good friends to others. Her Catholic friends shared their beliefs and values with her and a nurse she worked with suggested that she consider becoming a Sister.

After 25 years in religious life, working closely with families in the parish setting, Sister Penny believes that she influences others by affirming them and empowering them to use their gifts because no one is too insignificant to be used by God. One of her favorite saints is St. Therese, the Little Flower, who did little things for the love of God. Sister Penny’s approach to life at this time can be seen in light of her favorite Scripture passage from Philippians 4:6-7, “There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.”

