

Sharon Glumb, SLW - 2018



Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW is celebrating her 50th Jubilee this year. A Chicago native, Sr. Sharon has served as a teacher, director of Religious Education, campus minister and congregational leader. Sr. Sharon served in the past as associate director of the Archdiocese of Chicago Vocations Office. Until recently, she has been living in Holly Springs, Mississippi while promoting the “Hands-ON+Hearts-IN” service outreach initiative for women discerners to religious life. Here’s her journey story:

As I was growing up in the Chicago area, I attended Catholic schools and first met Sisters who served as my teachers. While they taught me about many things, I was most deeply affected by the way they encouraged me to develop my talents, so that I might contribute something positive to the world.

I chose to become a Sister so that I could offer that same kind of encouragement and challenge to other young people. Initially I entered the Sisters of Christian Charity, but I knew that God was drawing me toward the Sisters of the Living Word when this new Community was formed in 1975. I professed my final vows two years later.

During my early years in ministry I served in the Chicago area, teaching 7th graders in Catholic schools, directing a religious education program in a suburban parish and devoting a couple of years to campus ministry. Eventually, the Community asked me to direct our efforts in inviting other women to join us. So in the 1980’s I served as vocation director for the Community and later for the Archdiocese of Chicago as well.

While my ministry in Chicago was fulfilling, the call to a more missionary form of life brought me to Mississippi in 1992. For ten years I served as campus minister at three small colleges in Jackson, MS, where I served Catholic students and encouraged them to grow into contributing young adult members of the Church. In a state that is only 3% Catholic, the faith-related struggles of college students are very real. So, my main priority was to provide an environment where they might grow in faith.

From 2000 till 2006, while continuing part time in campus ministry in the south, I once again directed the Community’s new membership efforts. Following that, I returned to full time campus ministry, where I served three college / university communities in the Memphis Diocese until 2013.

At that time, I was elected to serve in Congregational Leadership for the Sisters of the Living Word for a five-year term, 2013-2018. I was re-elected in 2018 for a second five-year term.

While in leadership, I applied to the Catholic Volunteer Network for a grant to begin a service –discernment program for women interested in religious life through the initiative “From Service to Sisterhood.” The program, called “Hands -ON – Hearts-IN” is just completing its pilot stage past 18 months. So far, one woman has participated, in May 2017.