

CAVocation A Voices

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Congregation: Benedictine Sisters of Chicago

*"I am constantly amazed
at the blessing
it has been for me."
-Sister Belinda*



I had never planned to enter a monastery, although I was probably the person who was most surprised when I found myself exploring the possibility. I was in my mid-thirties, had finished a doctorate in archaeology and was doing research as an archaeologist, and planned to continue to do so. I had also very gradually become very involved at the campus church where I had gotten my degree. I was organizing the liturgical bread baking, which meant also attending liturgy committee meetings. At some point I began to attend daily Mass; not by conscious decision, I simply started getting up from work every day about four o'clock and heading to church. Shortly after that, I began spiritual direction because I had a sense that if I was going to do this, I should probably think about why, and what it meant. At that very first meeting, my spiritual director asked me whether I'd ever thought about becoming a nun. I laughed and answered very honestly, "No," and didn't really think about it again, except to wonder whether she asked that question of all single women who talked to her...

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