

Sister Cabrini Thomas

Daughter of Charity

I was born in 1943 in Aurora, IL. I am the third child in a family of five. I have two older sisters one younger sister, and a younger brother who is a Discalced Carmelite priest. My sisters are all married. My father emigrated from Italy in 1920. My mother was Irish. In some places at that time, this was considered a mixed-marriage. They received special permission to marry.

I went to Catholic schools my whole life. I entered the Daughters of Charity in 1961 and completed my postulancy, seminary (novitiate) and college in St. Louis, Mo.

I was sent on mission in 1966 to Our Lady of Talpa School in East Los Angeles as a fourth-grade teacher. I spent six years at this school where I switched grades and taught in the junior high. Little did I know then that most of my community life would be in Los Angeles and at that school!

In 1972, I was missioned to St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School, Phoenix where I spent 5 years teaching in the junior high.

In 1977 I was sent back to Our Lady of Talpa in LA and taught 4<sup>th</sup> grade until 1981 when I was sent to teach in the junior high in Price, Utah, a small mining town just 2-and-a-half-hour drive from Salt Lake City. This school had a 9<sup>th</sup> grade, so I was teaching 7,8,9<sup>th</sup> religion and Language Arts. I was only there two years but loved the school and the small town. It was my first time in 15 years that I lived in a four-season climate again. I was thrilled.

In 1983 I was missioned back to Our Lady of Talpa in LA as principal where I spent 10 more years! During those ten years many students and several teachers had been children I previously taught. It was a wonderful experience. I spent 10 years there as principal and was given a few months sabbatical. The summer of 1994 I was missioned to another one of our schools in the LA area, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal School in Montebello, CA where I taught 7th and 8th grade.

In 1995, I was asked to change schools again, but continued to remain in Los Angeles. I went to St. Vincent School, in downtown Los Angeles teaching in junior high. My teaching experience lasted only two years because I became principal in 1997, where I remained until 2014.

In October 2014 I returned to St. Vincent de Paul School, Phoenix, where I was supposed to semi-retire and be a help to the principal. That only lasted three months because the principal was chosen to be on our provincial council. In May 2015, I became Director of the school along with a lay principal and vice principal where I am still missioned today.

I have had wonderful experiences throughout my life as Daughter of Charity in the teaching ministry.

In the early years, we would leave the mission in the summer to help in different areas. I was fortunate to minister in social agencies, in Southern California, Utah, and Colorado.



# *St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School*

*May 1, 2022*

Dear Sister Anthony Mary,

You have been in my thoughts and prayers.

You asked for a few notes about me.

I am the oldest of 8 children and entered the DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY at 25 years of age. I am from Los Angeles, CA.

I attended night school and Saturday classes and worked full time. I worked toward my BA.

One of my uncles asked why I didn't get married and do something with my life. I told him I was going to be a Daughter of Charity.

I paid for my entrance fee and turned in my life insurance policy with permission of my parents to pay for the trip and left the rest of the money for my parents to keep.

I was assigned to Birmingham, Alabama, and taught 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade,

I also taught school in Carson City, Nevada, Price, Utah, Lafayette, Colorado and Los Angeles, California.

Then some years my ministry was in Anchorage, Alaska, San Francisco, California and Phoenix, Arizona.

I have ministered in Phoenix at St. Vincent de Paul School and the St. Vincent de Paul Society since 2011.

*Sincerely in Christ,  
Sister Mary Latta D.C.*