

## Benita Sohm

In an interview with Benita Sohm asking how she lived the SSND charism in her family and ministry she responded with enthusiasm, recalling how she entered the community right after the General Chapter of 1970 that gave us *You Are Sent*. This “holy rule” had been rewritten in the spirit of Vatican II and coincided with the theology courses she was taking at Notre Dame College. It was a time of hope and great promise for the Church and the congregation.

Because of her own generous personality and from her formation with the School Sisters of Notre Dame she was imbued with a desire to be a unifier, respecting diverse gifts, and bringing this quality to her relationships within her family, parish, and ministry. As a young couple and sometimes now she and her husband pray together and do faith-sharing.

Another aspect of SSND that she brings to her life is a desire to collaborate, to work with others to create community, and to work through difficulties with dialogue that honors all involved. She and her husband have two children, Joe and Anna. Raising a family has offered opportunities for all of the above.

As we chatted she shared a story. Benita’s husband had been to Berlin and created a slide show for their daughter to take to school. Their son, Joe was worried about the people behind the wall, and asked if they would ever get out. At the age of six, every night before bed, Joe began praying that the Berlin Wall would come down. In 1989 when this prayer was dramatically answered, his faith was deepened by the event. As an adult he has become a CPA and volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Anna, Joe’s sister, graduated from Notre Dame High School where she majored in Spanish. One of the most life-changing experiences was a trip to Honduras where she saw the ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame among people rich in faith and hospitality. Anna is currently working on her graduate degree in Spanish and has returned to teach at Notre Dame High School. She chose Notre Dame which meant a cut in salary by not working in the public school. However, she wanted to deepen the spirit of community she experienced during her years studying there. She joined her mother who has been a member of the NDHS community for 19 years and who currently serves as Campus Minister.

Benita Price Sohm is living the SSND charism in her ‘own voice,’ a voice of change.