



Virgie Azcueta

Jubilarian

51 years in religious life (1968-1982)

37 years in SFCC (1985-2022)

Servants of St Joseph (SSJ) where she was assigned as high school coordinator and religion teacher. She also served as religion coordinator and director of religious education. Later, after leaving the former congregation, Virgie worked as an activity director in a nursing home, as well as parish youth minister. She earned an undergrad degree in pre-med and, later, a master's in spirituality and parish ministry. Virgie put those degrees to use as director of youth and young adult ministries in the diocese of San Jose, California.

During a retreat in 1978, Virgie realized that her vocation was no longer connected to her present religious community and requested exlaustration. 2 Years later she returned to community. Her mother general permitted Virgie to go to the USA in 1982 to continue to search God's will. She eventually decided to join the non-canonical Community of the Holy Spirit (CHS) in Illinois. From the CHS she found SFCC and was affirmed by the Southern California Region in 1985.

Virgie always felt God's call to minister in Africa. She had initially joined the SSJs with the desire to be sent to their missions in Africa; but was put in local classrooms in the Philippines. After joining SFCC, Virgie volunteered her time to live with and help Teresana Fornasero, SFCC in her mission in northern Kenya. The ICCs at the time (Fran Campbell and Suzanne Dunn) encouraged Virgie to investigate an alternative way that would create a more permanent and sustainable opportunity. Virgie was accepted in the Maryknoll Sisters' missionary associate training program. She was assigned by Maryknoll to Tanzania where she remained from 2003-2010. From Africa, Virgie returned to the Philippines where she runs a prayer center and also mentors many in SFCC. She says, I understand SFCC better every time I answer questions about the community. I have been inspired in my encounters and friendships with the genuine women in SFCC.

Currently, Virgie serves SFCC as a member of the International Communication Coordinator Team (ICC). Within that service role, she works most closely with SFCC in Africa.

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