



Sr Marie Byrne

- **What is unique about the Daughters of Charity?**

For me the uniqueness of the Daughters of Charity is that we are called to serve every poor person, no matter who they are or where they come from. We are asked to be constantly available to go and serve them.

- **What kind of work / ministry do you do?**

At present I am engaged in Parish Ministry. My particular job is Parish Administrator as we have no Priest in the Parish. My responsibilities include the day to day administration of the Parish, working with people who are bereaved, sick, at home and in hospital, organising weddings, funerals, Baptisms, Baptism and First Communion Courses for Parents. I do quite a lot of work with young people, music, Confirmation Courses, First Communions, and Youth Club. There are many lay people involved in supporting all these services and there is quite a lot of team work. I also try to visit families and elderly people, taking the housebound Communion. There is a great joy in being with people at all the important times in their lives.

- **Do you get paid for the work you do?**

I get a stipend of £2,500 per year which goes to the central fund of the Community. This offsets car expenses, etc.

- **Why do you live in community?**

Community is the place where I get support, inspiration, strength to do my ministry. St. Vincent was very strong on Community life because he felt that it was important for us to live together, pray together and recreate together in order that the poor be served well.

- **How did you know you were called?**

I felt called to give something back as I felt I had been given a lot. We had a very strong extended family and I have many good memories of family get "togethers". There was a great community spirit among people, a strong faith and generosity even though times were difficult in Ireland at that time. All these factors were a part of my feeling of being called to give my life to God. I felt confirmed in that call during my formation and ever since in my life of service.