

Discovering an Opportunity of a Lifetime

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Having completed 35 years in the education field, I happily joined the ranks of those untold numbers of retired educators, who anticipate the newness of 'not-having-to-do anything.' I recall my father telling us of the numbness he felt the day he retired and realized that no one was waiting for him to make decisions, balance the company's books, or face the challenges of his profession. I wondered if I too might feel the pain of not being needed. Having always been very busy, I now found out that I could choose how to spend my days. Late evenings at the opera, season tickets to the ballet and symphony, and reading the many books that had been shelved over the years, were some of the exciting venues now open to me. And of course, the most important, spending time with my grandchildren. These are indeed the happiest hours I could ever have imagined.

My home parish has always offered me the most wonderful opportunities to work with children and adults in the many ministries available. For these past twelve years, I have directed the children's choir comprised of approximately 50 adorable children from the ages of 6 through 18, some of whom have been with me from the beginning. Our

Christmas Eve pageant is witnessed by hundreds of parishioners each year. Other notable activities include visits to the Houses of Providence and our own ShareLife walk.

Catechism classes for children and youth preparing for the sacraments of reconciliation, the eucharist and confirmation continue to be a very rewarding experience for me. The team of teachers working with this

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Immediate Preparation program shares my enthusiasm for the privilege of undertaking this parish commitment. The Archdiocesan Catholic Women's League is also high on my list of priorities, as it allows me to meet and work with some of the most dedicated and outstanding women in our diocese.

However, the most exciting and exhilarating days of my week are spent at Regis College, enrolled in a program of studies directed towards

a master's degree. Studying at Regis is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. Regis' gifted professors recognize and respect my presence at the College and willingness to learn at this stage of my life. My formal schooling had previously been in the area of education and music, and I am now astonished at all there is to learn at Regis of which I had never been aware. For the first time in my life, I am comfortable in a library, where the staff are warm and dedicated to assist everyone. I receive a wealth of knowledge from the assigned books to read and I even enjoy writing essays! Regardless of age or background, we are all pursuing personal and professional development.

Regis College offers a faith-filled community dedicated to academic excellence, which I had never experienced before. Our weekly liturgies reflect the sense of the unity and love shared among this faith community, and it is a privilege to be a member of the choir. I am truly grateful for the experience of being a student at Regis College, and for discovering this wonderful opportunity for personal development in my retirement.