

**“ And to some, his gift was that they should be ... teachers ...”**

**And in the past it was while holding down a full time teaching post that many of our Sisters spent time in the evening or at weekends going to parishes to catechise children. Yes, many of us who were founded with education as part of our apostolate have experienced an interesting expansion of that mission over the years.**

**From the formal classroom setting we have found ourselves involved in education in many and different pastoral settings: coordinating and participating in sacramental preparation, in parenting courses, in RCIA, bereavement, special needs and TEFL programmes. We have found ourselves specialising in counselling and spiritual formation. Young people and their needs have always been a priority for us.**

**Our teaching skills have helped us to set up programmes to answer needs in inner city, urban and rural areas and in parishes where there are no resident priests.**

**Some have taken their skills to developing countries, setting up all kinds of agricultural projects and life skills training.**

**We have used our skills in hospital, in prisons and many different institutions when these have been within the boundaries of the parish where we serve.**

**Wherever there is an educational need we have continued to respond and through our efforts our faith communities now know more of the heart of God, the compassion of God, the mercy of God. They have learnt too that God has no hands now but ours, no feet now but ours and so have taken their place in building up the body of Christ. It is good to be 'body builders', to pass on knowledge and skills and to know when to step back and let God's people minister in their own right.**

**Our particular charism, that gift to the Church evolved from our founding grace gives us a particular lens for seeing and speaking about our God - it may be Incarnational, or Marian, Augustinian or Benedictine, Franciscan, or Vincentian - all are expressions of that share of grace given as Christ allotted it.**

**And to some, his gift was that they should be teachers - yes, this is our service, our privilege and may we continued to be blessed in our endeavours so that, as the reading from Ephesians says 'we all come to unity in our faith and knowledge of the Son of God until we become perfect, fully mature with the fullness of Christ.'**