

Memories of Salve Regina 1964-1968 by Beverly Rosa Williams, PhD

May 2018 for the 50th Class Reunion

Three individuals at the university who guided my personal and professional path:

1. Sister Mary Christopher, RSM who introduced me to Catholic Social Teaching and inspired me to promote social justice education and work for social change.
2. Sister Mary Jean who taught me how to write well by exposing me to classic and contemporary literature and encouraging me to think creatively.
3. All the strong, dedicated and accomplished women faculty at Salve Regina who provided me with the intellectual tools to be a lifelong learner and empowered me to pursue my PhD.

Three events/activities at the university which informed my life:

1. The experience of coming of age during a time of profound social change and being rooted and grounded in a place of certitude, continuity, and conviction. To paraphrase Hemingway, Salve Regina is a moveable feast you take with you wherever you go.
2. The experience of being in the beauty of the Salve Regina campus, feeling God's presence in both the natural and built environment, and knowing you are part of something transcendent and enduring.
3. The experience of intellectual growth and academic achievement that Salve Regina fostered through its commitment to the Liberal Arts. Being immersed in Theology, Philosophy, English Literature, History, French, and Sociology set me on a path of lifelong learning and scholarly pursuits.

The values of the Sisters of Mercy and the Dominican priests who guided us:

1. Cultivate a joyful discipline of work and prayer
2. Nurture your mind and heart with the wisdom of great thinkers and writers
3. Engage the world with a vision of mercy and justice