

My vocation story has a few twists and turns, I first entered the DC's as a postulant in 1993 after discerning a call to religious life. I always felt that God had plans for me but I did not know what they were. I felt drawn to living with like-minded women serving God and people who are poor in whatever way he wanted me to. My first meeting of the DC's was on a pilgrimage to Paris for young SVP members, *The Streets of the City*. The experience left a lasting impression on me I wanted to find out more about this special group of women. It was their ordinariness that impressed me the most; it made me feel that I could be 'one of them'. This was the beginning of my journey to the Daughters of Charity. I postulated in Easterhouse, Glasgow and then returned to Mill Hill to begin my seminary, sadly after a year I left the community.

This was not the end! God is full of surprises and works in mysterious ways. My life outside community was good but something was missing. After a gap of 6 years, I felt very strongly the call to discern returning to the DC's and the need to make contact with them but, with the fear and question in my mind, 'Will they have me back? During the years in-between I gained maturity, self-knowledge and a readiness to commit myself to God and the community. Returning was the hardest decision of my life but I felt so confident of it being right for me and what God truly wanted me to do.

Now I am 6 years vocation, I made my vows for the first time last year on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception which is also my vocation date. I had waited so long for that day to come... It was such a happy day, with friends, family and many sisters who have been an important part of my journey there celebrating with me. I am now in my final year at university studying social work which is enabling me to give better service to people who are poor. The future is exciting and I can't wait to begin full-time ministry as a social worker knowing that in the spirit of Vincent and Louise I can be attentive and respond to the cries of those in most need in whatever way the community want me to.