



Accompanying the Vulnerable

By Sister Sharon Fagan, looking back from 2022

My years of service as a Public Health Nurse in NL for over 20 years in Harbour Breton, Botwood, Lewisporte and neighbouring areas, as well as my time spent in providing care for the elderly sick sisters in my Presentation Motherhouse Community in St. John's, provided me with an opportunity to use my gifts in a ministry of healing.

I was called to provide care to young mothers prior to and following the delivery of their precious children, to school children who needed health education to enable them to live healthy lives, to families who struggled with illness, hunger, poverty, grief, and loss, to the elderly who experienced the loneliness of their autumn years and to the young and old as they move toward the end of their journey on earth.

Through my many encounters as a nurse I came to view each person with physical, mental, social, and spiritual needs. Caring for people at various stages in their lives was a journey of endeavouring to accompany those who were vulnerable with gentleness and compassion.



Sometimes my patients needed medical care, most needed encouragement and affirmation, others needed to share their joys and fears, and others needed me to do nothing other than to create a space for silence or share a prayer that brought comfort and support.

Looking back, I learned three important things during this time in my life --- every person needs to be respected with dignity, listened to, and empowered. They are values that I continue to hold as I live my life as a Presentation Sister and serve in the ministry of Congregational Leadership.

