



SISTER ROSALIE KARSTEDT, CDP

Sister Rosalie Karstedt, a native of El Campo, TX, was elected as a General Councilor and will serve the Congregation for the next six years. Sister Rosalie has been a Sister of Divine Providence for 44 years however, her love for the church began when she was a child. Her parents were always involved in their parish in some way and she really enjoyed helping the Sisters of Divine Providence who worshiped in St. Philip's parish. In addition, she was educated by the Sisters, and as she got to know them, she wanted to be more like them, so after grade school she entered the Congregation's aspirancy program and later, the college formation program at Our Lady of the Lake Convent. Upon completion of formation, she made her first profession of vows.

Sister Rosalie has ministered mainly in education and religious vocation work. She spent the first 11 years of vowed life educating children in elementary and high school. After she taught high school in Alexandria, LA, in 1967, her ministry shifted to religious education, which in turn, prepared her to direct religious education programs for Catholic parishes in Houston for the 11 years that followed. Sister Rosalie then transitioned from religious education to religious vocation ministry and she worked for the Diocese of Galveston-Houston as the associate director of vocations for priesthood and religious life and as associate director of seminarians, where she has ministered for the past 22 years.

Sister Rosalie earned a Bachelor of Arts in History, Philosophy and English from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio in 1964 and earned a Master of Theology degree

from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1974. To solidify her credentials in vocation work, Sister Rosalie also received certification as a Priest Perceiver and a Religious Perceiver. For six years, Sister Rosalie directed "The New Vocation Directors" seminar for the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors. She is also credited as being part of the team that formed the "Region X Vocation Conference."

Sister Rosalie currently serves on the Board of Directors for St. Mary's Seminary in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Board of Directors for Shalom Center, a residential treatment center for priests and religious in Splendora, TX; she serves on the National Vocations Awareness Division Advisory Board of Paluch Press; and she is on the Seminary Admissions Committee for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Reflecting on the Congregation's 2004 Chapter Statement, Sister Rosalie says that being a Providence woman means always recognizing that God is first in her life — he is trustworthy and he provides for his creation in so many ways. Looking for "Providence moments" is something she witnesses to everyday and how she lives her life.

Sister Rosalie asks friends of the Congregation to support the Sisters' Chapter Statement of peace and non-violence by finding peace within yourself so you can share it with others and spread peace to others. She asks others to pray daily to the Prince of Peace to guide us toward love, patience and understanding in our everyday relationships with family, friends, co-workers and community. ■