

Sister Karen Crouse entered the Missionary Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate of West Virginia (commonly referred to as the Pallottine Sisters) in 1961. She earned a Bachelor of Art in History from Marillac College in 1972. From 1975 to 1976, Sister Karen was given permission by her major superior to live with the Sisters at Marycrest. By the end of 1976, she received permissions and transferred to our order.

From 1977 to 1980, she was a teacher at Holy Rosary Mission in South Dakota then at St. Mary's in O'Neill, Nebraska. 1980 to 1986, Sister Karen was a Vocation Facilitator at Marycrest. During the years of 1982 to 1984, she worked to complete studies in spirituality and spiritual direction at the Franciscan Training Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1986, Sister Karen was called to be the Director and Coordinator of a Franciscan Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she lived within the Projects with the people so that she could more effectively apply direct aid to the community while coordinating outreach with multiple agencies. Part of this work also included support and education for unwed mothers and delinquent girls. Sister Karen was able to work with many people and created relationships which have had a lasting positive affect. From 1991 to 1993, she served as Director of RENEW for the Reno and Las Vegas Diocese. This program taught the people of the diocese how to reflect upon and apply the word of God within their lives. In the fall of 1993, Sister Karen served as Catholic Campus Chaplain at the Interfaith Student Center of the University of Nevada, Los Vegas. From 2000 to 2003, she was a Pastoral Associate for Christ the King Parish in Las Vegas, Nevada, as well as a Novice Directress for the Province.

From 1999 to 2003, Sister Karen served as a member of the Provincial Council from Nevada. In 2003, she was called back to Marycrest to serve as Provincial Minister where she served for two terms ending in 2011. This was a time of great change for the sisters. God placed good people in her path. It was an honor to have served with those who worked with courage, grace, and such competency during hard times. One of those pivotal people was Sister Sue Artone-Fricke, who facilitated the sale of the Motherhouse and majority of the land associated with this property. Another was Sister Macrina



Scott, who Sister Karen always found to be solid and balanced in her service as First Assistant Provincial Council member and personal source of support.

In 2012, Sister Karen was called back to the Las Vegas area for parish ministry. She has served as Outreach Coordinator and as a Spiritual Director for **Holy Spirit** parish since that time. She also gives retreats for Holy Spirit and other regional parishes.

In the summer of 2022, Sister Karen moved back to Denver and began serving as First Council for the Community Council.

When not engaged in ministry, Sister Karen enjoys quiet time for prayer, reflection, and reading, as well as hiking, walking five miles per day, and spending time with friends and family. She is also known for her baking... especially for her famous chocolate cookies.

