

## DMJ Memories from Middlesbrough

Unlike many DMJ Associates I do not have a life long association with the sisters. In fact I am a bit of a 'Heinz 57'.

In my primary education at St Anselm's School, Harrow, there were no religious. I was however used to visiting my mother's two sisters who belonged to the Daughters of the Cross community at Haslemere in Surrey.

For secondary education I went to Sacred Heart Convent, Hammersmith until my parents moved north and I then attended FCJ Convent, Middlesbrough.

When I was married I went with my husband and children to Nigeria. Our parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, Creek Road, Port Harcourt, was served by the Vincentian Fathers and Daughters of Charity, who involved us in many things.

When in my forties, we joined St Thomas More Parish, Middlesbrough, served by the DMJ sisters.

It is hard to single out individual memories as there are many. Some that stand out are:

1. Sr. Anne's renown; as new to the area, I was amazed at the influence, far and wide, that got traced back to 'Sr. Anne's' nursery.
2. When my husband was in hospital in Newcastle (not locally), after a kidney transplant, Sr. Margaret Mary accompanied by Fr. Gubbins turned up to see him. They had been on a working visit but made a detour to see him. It meant so much to him.
3. When in the shock of my husband's sudden death, Sr. Celia appeared. She had already been transferred from Middlesbrough to Emmaus but made the journey to attend Gerard's funeral. She was so welcome and I really valued it.
4. Shortly after this, my son Martin's first child. Ashley, aged 4 months died of meningitis. Again we received support from Sr. along with Fr. Gubbins who came to the funeral even though it was in an Anglican church in another town.

These were the generous responses from DMJ sisters living out their charism. They did and continue to immerse themselves in the lives of those they serve and it makes a difference.

Teresa Bond (Associate)