

Sr. Liz Riopelle CPA, CGA

MY MINISTRY LIFE

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My name is Sr. Liz Riopelle and I entered the Sisters of St. Martha in 1962. I was working part time in dietary department of St. John’s Hospital in Lowell, MA, when the Sisters of St. Martha arrived in 1961 to take on the Administration of the facility. On the weekends, I became the unofficial chauffeur for the Sisters as they adjusted to life in the States. Having experienced twelve years of parochial school education with three different groups of religious sisters, I was smitten with the Marthas earthiness, welcoming hospitality, and concern for all those they met. And so, I left the familiar landscape of Massachusetts and headed north to Nova Scotia.

My education and ministry as a Martha have been very focused. With reference to education, I earned a Bachelor of Business Administration at StFX University and a designation in accounting, CPA, CGA, several years later. I have been in the field of Finance since 1973 when I left StFX. University. My ministries included two years at St. Martha’s Regional Hospital in the accounting department and thirteen years between the New Waterford Consolidated Hospital (Director of Finance) and the Cape Breton Healthcare Facility (Budget Manager). All my other ministry was internal serving as Congregation Treasurer during three different periods.



For many, this ministry in finance may sound boring. However, I love the work and enjoy helping to make things happen. As I look back over my life, there are so many projects and initiatives that I was involved in and helped bring to fruition. As well, making finances simple and understandable for our Sisters has always given me great satisfaction. So, my ministry has been far from boring and is indeed life-giving.

As a Congregation, we have a wonderful history of involving our members through committee work. Over the years I have had the opportunity to work with Sisters and laity on various committees and boards. This was also a learning experience for me and connected me to so many dedicated women and men who work to further CSM Mission.



For the past twenty years, a personal delight for me has been reading and reflecting on the Cosmic Universe Story. The story has so many implications for all of life. I have been blessed to have spent so much time living on our beautiful Bethany property. We co-exist with wild-life and share the beauty and peace of our land with many visitors who come aside to be refreshed.

Fifty-eight years ago, I left Massachusetts to reside in Antigonish! The journey has been rich and meaningful. I could never have envisioned being in the ministries talked about above. Our God is a God of Surprises!