



S. Paula Hagen OSB

On June 20th, 1937, Al and Catherine Hagen welcomed me into their little farm family. I joined an older brother, Jim, who has had an incredible influence on my life. At St. Mary's High School in Bird Island, we were definitely rewarded for disciplining both our minds and our behavior.

Blessed with a four-year work and academic scholarship, I attended the College of St. Catherine and majored in Occupational Therapy. That summer at S.

Jude Hagen's final profession of vows as a Benedictine Sister, I was deeply touched by the profession of vows liturgy, the fun-loving spirit of the Benedictine family, and their deep commitment to reaching out and sharing their values. I took a risk and made a one year commitment to discern what God was calling me to be. I came, I grew, and I stayed. My commitment to the Benedictine life style and professional excellence became deeply integrated during my first twenty-five years. I became a family therapist, working on adult spiritual formation in parishes and publishing a process to facilitate adult spiritual development. I was assigned to various parishes in MN, AZ, and FL. During this time we

published MOMS (Ministry of Mother's Sharing) which became a national outreach ministry of the Sisters of St. Benedict.

In the first fifty years, God has blessed me with a network of Benedictines and professional colleagues who continue to challenge and affirm me to use my gifts to serve God's people.