



Sr. Dorothy Fabritze, MSC

I was born in Allentown, Pennsylvania. When I was in eighth grade, the idea of religious life came to me as a persistent thought. Although I was taught by the Sisters of Mercy, I became interested in the Missionary Sisters when a girl in my parish came to the aspirancy, St. Michael's, in Reading, PA. I then decided, at the age of thirteen, that I wanted to go as well. I took my vows as a Missionary Sister of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on August 22, 1968.

During my time at St. Michael's High School, several sisters returned home from our missions in Papua New Guinea (PNG). Upon hearing their stories, I decided that I wanted to be a foreign missionary as well.

It was Sr. Dacia who helped me get appointed to PNG following what - to my missionary heart - was a long wait. During the 1970's, PNG was striving for independence from Australia. Because the Sisters were afraid that violence would erupt, they temporarily stopped sending Sisters to the region. I spent two years teaching grade school in Nazareth and then Philadelphia as I awaited a foreign missionary assignment. When PNG finally reached independence peacefully, my VISA and appointment by Sr. Dacia were approved in 1977.

To me, PNG represented what we are all about as Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart – sharing the gospel and improving living standards and encouraging indigenous leadership. I was involved in the education and formation of women who became indigenous Sisters. These indigenous Sisters then become part of our congregation of The Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.



By the year 2000 I began my time in Circus Ministry serving as a pastoral minister and teacher until 2019. These years were filled with inspiration as I came to know and to minister to the people of traveling shows. What impressed me most about Circus is that we went, we became a part of the Circus community, and we let God do his thing. We were present as the living, breathing presence of the love of God among the people and they accepted us openly. Being present among circus families has been one of my fondest ministries.

After retiring from Circus Ministry in 2019, I began my ministry as the Mission Appeal Coordinator for our U.S. Province. This job proved particularly challenging in the time of Covid.

In 2022 I was called to serve as the Province Leader for the U.S. Province, and I will remain in that role until 2026.