



**Sr. Virginia Longcope, MSC**

I first met the Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish in Hilltown, PA. By high school I had decided to become an MSC Sister so I entered St. Michael High School and later made my Final Profession in 1966.

My first ministry was one of Elementary School Teacher. I taught both first, forth, and fifth grades between 1963 and 1986 in various places: Coplay, Philadelphia, Limeport, Nazareth, Reading, and Northampton.

In 1986 I began my studies in prison ministry in Columbia, SC and took my first job at the Palmer Work Release Center in Florence, SC.

Inspired by an individual in the work release program, Stephen, I returned to Allentown, PA in 1992 to begin establishing a halfway house for non-violent offenders and worked part-time for the Catholic Social Agency.

In 1993 my dream was realized when I became the Executive Director of Stephen's Place in Bethlehem, PA. For the next twenty years I continued and grew this ministry until retiring in 2023.

Now taking time to write the book of my life experiences, I reside at St. Joseph Villa with many other MSC Sisters.