

## **Sister Marie Louise Cordeiro FMDM**

Sharing my 60 years of religious life brings many happy memories of joy and adventure. When I was young I was ready for anything the Lord wills for me.

I joined the Congregation of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1955 and after two months I was sent to England for my religious formation. After my first profession on 17<sup>th</sup> September 1957 I did my General Nursing training in Ireland. I returned to Singapore as a trained nurse only for a year. Our Superior General was starting a foundation in Bendigo, Melbourne, Australia, and I was missioned there. We were a small community of sisters caring for the sick in a house adjacent to the convent. It was a big house donated to us and converted into a "Nursing Home" facility. I made my Final Profession in 1962. Our dream for a hospital became a reality when our new Mount Alvernia Hospital was blessed and opened in 1972. Besides General Nursing I did a 2-year catering course which enabled me to manage the Catering Department in the Hospital. I felt very privileged to be part of the early days of Mount Alvernia Hospital, Bendigo and I love the beautiful country and the people.

Back to Singapore in 1982, I staffed Villa Francis, Home for the Aged for 3 years. Then I was sent to Mount Alvernia Hospital Singapore where I helped the Dietician to start the Halal Kitchen for Muslim meals.

I was a member of the Catholic Nurses Guild for more than 30 years, serving as secretary for some years, and leading prayer for their meetings.

Seasons come and go, and I am now retired. I have more time for prayer and reading, taking care of our convent chapel and the Rosary apostolate especially for Mount Alvernia Hospital night staff on Wednesday evenings. I still enjoy using my culinary skills to cook a simple meal occasionally for the sisters or baking scones and making pancakes for tea.

I celebrate my Jubilee with thanksgiving and with our Blessed Lady I can say "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour"