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My journey to the priesthood began at an early age when my mother taught me about God and how to pray. When I was in the third grade, I wanted to become a teacher, missionary, nun, and a priest. I was only a child, but I knew that God was asking something more of me. The power of this encounter, this moment, has never faded and continues to evoke a restlessness within me as I seek to respond to God's call that I first experienced in all the innocence and trust of childhood.

I responded to God's call as a teen and young adult by serving others as a certified nurse's aide. Within that experience I developed a sensitivity to the needs of, and a compassion for the elderly. Likewise, a sense of the power of prayer, presence, sacrament, and the holiness of both weakness and death became real. Affirmed, I sensed there was more, the call to the priesthood persisted.

Putting prayer into action, I responded to God's call to be a teacher by study and then credentialing as a classroom teacher, serving in Roman Catholic Schools and as a missionary in Africa. Then transferring later to public school as a special education teacher for mild to moderate students. Affirmed in knowing and doing God's will, the call to the priesthood persisted. Circumstances of life have tested my trust in God, revealed the dimensions and mystery of the virtues of patience and perseverance, and offered me deep insights into the power of prayer, the enduring qualities of love, the value of community and the truths of both scripture and tradition.

My mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. I became my mother's primary caregiver and cared for her over the years of decline. The power of

prayer, the comfort of the faith, the opportunity to embody God's love even when my mother couldn't respond, became living and true in my heart and my very being. And yet, I sensed, even more strongly, that God was asking more of me. The call to the priesthood was becoming louder, more insistent. I experienced the holiness of death, the final and complete healing offered by God as my mother died and joined the Communion of Saints in her new, resurrected life. After my mother's death, however, I tried to answer God's call, the one I sensed as a child, by entering a monastery as a postulant, knowing the Roman Catholic Church does not ordain women to the priesthood. Even though I sensed I was settling in my response to God, I entered the monastery as an obedient Roman Catholic woman.

Within that experience it became abundantly clear that I was called to the priesthood, not religious life. Within my own heart and within the wisdom of the community, it was clear that God was calling me to the priesthood. Therefore, in order to respond fully to God's call, I would need to journey beyond the Roman Catholic Church. Through continual prayer, by saying yes to God's persistent, loving, and life-long pursuit of me to the priesthood, I have been received in the Episcopal Church, graduated from seminary, ordained as a transitional deacon, and ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. I am currently the Associate Rector for Pastoral Care Ministries at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. I enjoy riding horses and driving Harley Davison Motorcycles.