

Sister Kathleen Keller, SNJM

Class of 1964

Sister Kathleen Keller is a member of Clearwater Central Catholic's first graduating class. Since her days at CCC, Sister Kathleen has dedicated her life to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. Her dedication to the Sisters and their mission proves how Sister Kathleen perfectly embodies our core value of Living Faith.

As a student, Sister Kathleen was first introduced to the Sisters of the Holy Names when they opened St. Cecelia's School in Clearwater, FL. In 1962, Sister Kathleen transitioned over to Clearwater Central Catholic High School as one of the first students to walk the halls. She was involved in the choral-dramatic club, math club, tennis team, swim team and was a monitor for Student Government.

After CCC, Sister Kathleen traveled to Albany, NY, where she joined the Sisters of the Holy Names and began her journey teaching health education to elementary students in Albany then Clearwater, FL. Her unique teaching path led to receiving a full scholarship for her Master's in Health Education from Russell Sage College. While working as an administrative assistant at the Arts Center on the Holy Names Campus in Albany, Sister Kathleen was asked to serve in Peru. She spent six and a half years serving with the Sisters of the Holy Names' mission in Peru, where she worked as a secretary and catechist in a parish in Arequipa. She also helped start the Sisters of the Holy Names' house in La Curva and served as pastor of a parish that encompassed five towns.

After returning to the U.S., Sister Kathleen worked in Maryland, first at a high school in Silver Spring and then at a Catholic Charities Health Care Network. She also studied massage therapy at the Massage School in Washington, DC, where she later taught and received the first ever Teacher of the Year Award from the American Massage Therapy Association. Sister Kathleen ministers at St. Luke Institute, bringing the special qualities of a vowed religious woman and touch therapist to other religious men and women, especially those who suffer from abuse issues and PTSD. She volunteers with Prison Ministry Outreach, sings at St. Michael's parish, and is an active member of an anti-trafficking group.

Sister Kathleen celebrated her Golden Jubilee of Vows in 2017 and is the only CCC graduate to enter the convent and remain a dedicated religious sister. She embodies every aspect of the core value, Living Faith, and we are honored to call her a Distinguished Alumnus.