

# Biography of Sister Marie Hesed

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I was born in a large, beautiful family in Quebec, Canada. Although a proud Quebecoise, I prefer to say that I am a British Canadian rather than a French Canadian since my mom is from England.

I received my Religious Vocation at the age of eight and that moment, still remains very vivid to me. I learned the value of sacrifice because you love at the tender age of nine when my teacher, a Sister, explained how pleasing that was to Jesus. I resolved at that age never to eat sugar and give up hockey, a sport I not only loved but also played. As stated I not only love hockey but also played hockey and learned not only how to give a tremendously good body check but above all to work as a team and for a team. It molded my future in more ways than one as I followed the inner call to Religious Life.

I entered the only Canadian Contemplative Cloister founded by Mother Aurelie of the Precious Blood in my Twenties. The Charism – Sitio – to satiate the Thirst etched itself in my very heart. Although a deep love for monastic life marked my soul – the rigors of monastic life did not permit to continue. The extreme pain this reality caused has no words – however Jesus accepted not only my life's offering but also my agony and was preparing the way for my next years of life.

I went to meet Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta in the South Bronx, New York on May 24th 1976. As I walked in the Chapel – I read by the wounded side the word: 'I Thirst' – I knew I was 'home'. In this very brief encounter with Mother – Jesus asked me to TRUST HIM UNCONDITIONALLY and on June 18th I left my beloved country, Canada to become the first candidate to the new Contemplative Branch Mother was founding in the South Bronx. Sister Nirmala, who was to replace Mother as General on March 13th 1997 was the one chosen to begin this new Contemplative Branch of the Missionaries of Charity.

The founding of this new Branch answered the deepest call within my own soul. On June 28th 1979 the first Missionaries of Charity Contemplatives professed first vows with Mother being present. It was the beginning of an incredibly graced missionary life which took me to Tijuana, Cuba, Calcutta in India, Kenya and different parts of the United States.

However it was during my mission of five years in Cuba as a Contemplative that I came to understand in such a profound way what it meant to be a CONTEMPLATIVE / MISSIONARY. It caused a soul searching discernment of over five more years which finally led to my seeking admission in the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity, in 2003. The Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity was founded by Father James Flanagan in very humble beginnings, in Holman New Mexico; to serve the deepest apostolic need. The Sacred Congregation for Religious permitted me to transfer my final vows from the Society of the Missionaries of Charity Contemplatives to the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity on May 31st 2006.

As a final professed member of the Society of Our Lady and after discernment from our Founder and General Sister Servant I have come to Willey, Iowa to establish a mission for the Society of Our Lady which is to be called Domus Trinitatis – Home of the Trinity. Domus Trinitatis is to be a Contemplative Center of Renewal and sustainable agriculture where everyone is welcomed for a time to rest, rejuvenate and refocus in the beauty of creation.