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Sr. Ginger: Changes in the Teaching World

Nicholas Roemer

Augustana College, Rock Island Illinois

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Nicholas Roemer

Sr. Ginger: Changes in the Teaching World

Abstract: I interviewed Sr. Ginger in January of 2018 regarding her professional and spiritual life as a woman religious. This paper includes a portion of the interview where Sr. Ginger spoke on her experiences in the education field.

Sr. Ginger worked as an elementary education teacher for many years in small rural private Catholic schools and was even a principal of a school for five years. Being principal was much harder than being a teacher because it is impossible to please everyone, but dealing with high school kids was also a difficult task because it is a tough time for them to discern who they really are. Working as a principal was harder for Sr. Ginger because she enjoyed being more in touch with the students and it is much harder to do that as principal. The teachers made it much easier and as long as the whole community worked together things moved very smoothly. When she worked in Catholic schools she said they used creative ways to meet the needs of the children. She used volunteers at these private schools and made it easier for the volunteers by giving them the brighter kids while she would spend more time with the students that were a little more challenged with their course work. One large change she found while working in education at these private Catholic institutions was that there was a parental shift in the way the parents supported the educational system. Sr. Ginger said that the parents would put most of their support only in their children and not nearly as much into the teachers or faculty which made it harder for them to educate smoothly. It was much more evident to her when she became principal. If there was any sort of conflict at school, the parents would quickly support their children instead of the school. Sr. Ginger said this was very disturbing to her because, "It takes a

village to raise a child and we all need to work together instead of seeing each other as enemies or as intruding on the child's freedom.”¹ As a teacher, it would be difficult having so little support from parents. It would make it hard to do your job as effectively as possible. Sr. Ginger says this was the biggest obstacle in the teaching world that she experienced. With that being said, she still feels like the public and private education institutions do a great job in educating students. Throughout her many years as a teacher and administrator at Catholic schools, Sr. Ginger had a great time teaching students and helping the faculty. Sr. Ginger enjoyed teaching and helping others during her professional work in the education field.

¹ “Sr. Ginger.” Telephone interview by author. January 11, 2018.

Works Cited

“Sr. Ginger.” Telephone interview by author. January 11, 2018