

Mrs. Olivas

I was born and raised in San Francisco, California where I attended public schools and Religious Education classes under the guidance of the Sisters of the Holy Family. A full scholarship from the Catholic Professional Women's Organization of San Francisco enabled me to attend St. Paul's High School. After graduation I entered Holy Family College in Mission San Jose where I studied Sacramental Theology, Scriptural Exegesis, Liturgy, and Chant.

I received an Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Studies from Sierra College. While attending Sierra I worked as a psychological research assistant at De Witt State Hospital. I earned my Bachelor of Arts degree at San Diego State University in 1972 and completed my Elementary Teaching Credential course work there in 1973. During my studies at San Diego State I worked as a teacher's aide in an inner-city school.

The next twelve years were spent teaching for the San Ysidro School District in San Diego. I enjoyed teaching fifth grade bilingual students for seven years and later worked as a Reading Resource teacher for first through sixth grades. While teaching, I continued post-graduate studies in Bi-Lingual Education, Language Acquisition, and Spanish.

When my husband, Jesus, became part of the Gavilan College faculty in 1985 we moved to Hollister with our sons, David and Jonathan. I became a Sacred Heart parent volunteer when our eldest son entered Kindergarten. In 1990, after our youngest son was enrolled in first grade, Sister Margaret Ann invited me to teach Music ("Now that both boys are in school all day.") I have been thanking God ever since! During my tenure at Sacred Heart my post-graduate studies have included Elementary Music and Vocal Techniques at San Jose State University, and Adolescent Spirituality at the University of San Francisco.

As a Lay Associate of the Sisters of the Holy Family, sharing God's gifts of faith and love with our Sacred Heart students is part of my covenant, and a source of great joy. I feel privileged to be part of a dedicated faculty which encourages both spiritual and professional growth, allowing each teacher to share their knowledge and the riches of our Catholic faith with God's precious treasures: the students of Sacred Heart Parish School.