

Sisters from St. Scholastica Monastery taught at Duluth Cathedral; as a student there Sister Mary Charles would have been familiar with the nearby Monastery as well as the values and rhythms of religious life. When she expressed an interest in joining the Monastery, her father told her to try it, adding if she didn't like it she could come home. Sister Mary Charles entered the Monastery right after high school and was formally accepted into the Community in 1944. In a 1985 letter she thanked her mother for her religious vocation.

Sister Mary Charles received a Bachelor's Degree in Art and English from The College of St. Scholastica in 1950 and was initially assigned to teach second grade in Minneapolis. The next year she returned to Duluth where she taught first at the College and then at St. Anthony's School until 1959, when she was asked to chair the Art Department at the College. She had begun graduate study of art in 1950 at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and she continued those studies at Notre Dame's Graduate School of Art, earning a Master of Fine Arts degree in 1964. One of her most influential teachers was Dr. Frederick Beckman who was interested in industrial design and its relationship to sculpture.

In 1967 Sister Mary Charles asked for and received permission to be relieved of her teaching responsibilities at the College and move to the Barn, as the carriage house on the McCabe property became known. This was a very significant development in her life as a religious,



*Sister Mary Charles, ca. 1967 outside the Barn*

an artist, and a teacher. The move gave her time to devote to the growing number of commissions she had been receiving. She could also offer summer programs for children, programs focused on nurturing their creative potential.

Sister Mary Charles is probably best known in the Duluth community for the Barn summer programs that ran for fifteen years and, besides young people,