

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sister Patricia Ralph

PERSON

Ralph, Patricia, 1960-

Alternative Names: Sister Patricia Ralph;

Life Dates: August 15, 1960-

Place of Birth: Jersey City, New Jersey, USA

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Elementary School Principal; Nun

Biographical Note

Sister Patricia Anne Ralph was born on August 15, 1960, in Jersey City, New Jersey. Ralph attended elementary and junior high school at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in Newark, New Jersey. While attending junior high school, in the eighth grade she decided she would dedicate her life to God and become a nun. In 1979, she earned her high school diploma from Benedictine Academy, a private Catholic school in Elizabeth, New Jersey. While in high school she was a cheerleader, baton twirler and a member of

the dance team.

In 1985, Ralph graduated from Jersey City State College where she earned her degree in teaching. This same year she entered the Community of St. Joseph to begin her journey as a nun. There, Ralph became known as “Sister Patty” to her friends and the hundreds of students she’s taught. Currently, out of 1200 nuns, she is the only African American nun in the St. Joseph community.

In 1988, Ralph received and her first teaching assignment at St. Martin De Porres Catholic School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she taught first grade. Two years later, she was missioned to Holy Family Catholic School in Hilcrest Heights, Maryland where she was a first and second grade teacher. The following year, Ralph accepted a teaching position at Holy Name Catholic, School in Washington, D.C. She continued to teach at Holy Name for the next five years until she was named principal, a position she continues to hold today.

In 1994, she made her final vows in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, thus completing her journey to become a nun. Surprisingly, her twin sister, Lynne Marie, decided to follow in Ralph’s footsteps and also became a nun although entering a different community, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

Ralph currently resides in Washington, D.C. Her twin sister is also a teaching nun at an elementary school in Memphis, Tennessee.

Related Entries

Blessed Sacrament School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

N/A

Benedictine Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

N/A

Jersey City State College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Xavier University of Louisiana [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Trinity College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

MA

Benedictine Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

St. Martin De Porres High School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1989]

Teacher

Holy Family Parish Elementary School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 1991]

Teacher

Holy Name School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 1996]

Religious Nun

Blessed Sacrament School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1996 to 1998]

Teacher

Holy Family Parish Elementary School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to 2001]

Teacher

Holy Name School [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Teacher