

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

The Province of the West Indies



Sister Alicson Hudlin loves nursing. Her enthusiasm for helping people has not dimmed through the many decades of service nor the COVID-19 pandemic. She considers herself to be walking in the footsteps of Jesus with His healing ministry.

At 18 she began training as a nursing assistant at the Port of Spain General Hospital (PoSGH). Days before graduating she entered the St. Joseph Novitiate in Arouca. She was 20 years old. “This was what I felt God was calling me to. I just felt this was what I wanted to do with my life. I had great support from my family, my parents,” she said. Her foundation in the Catholic faith was planted by her family.

After her First Profession of Vows in 1988, she went to St. Lucia and furthered her training at the Sir Arthur Lewis Community College. In 1996 she made her Final Profession of Vows in the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny. Sister Alicson told the Catholic News she has celebrated and passed her silver jubilee. “I forget the years, I stopped counting,” she said before an exuberant chuckle.

After returning to Trinidad, Sister Alicson first worked in midwifery at the San Fernando General Hospital. She went to PoSGH in 2006 and began working in communities. “I enjoy it. I love being able to teach younger people. When I came to work in PoSGH, I was responsible for helping, doing the practical aspects of midwifery with student midwives,” Sister Alicson said. “For two to three years, I supervised home births. I think that is one of the most beautiful things about midwifery; that home birth where the family is involved.”

Sister Alicson has encountered former clients who still remember her. She reflects that one of the beautiful things about her job was people who see



Photo: Catholic News, Archdiocese of Trinidad & Tobago

Sister Alicson Hudlin

her as “my midwife.” They are proud to introduce her to the now grown baby she delivered.

As a nurse in the Maracas/St. Joseph Health Centre for the past four years, she meets people in varied circumstances. They share their struggles and she tries to assist whenever she can.

With the beginning of the pandemic, she said, “At work we discussed what were the best options; and we followed the guidelines of the Ministry of Health. It has become much, much more difficult.” Sister Alicson has been in the field assisting with administering vaccines. She offered to serve in the vaccine program to experience what it was like working during a pandemic.

Sister Alicson does not deny that taking care of people during a pandemic can be tough, but it has made her even happier to have the support of her religious community. Keeping routines of morning and evening prayer, Holy Hour during the week, and novenas has helped her. “Sometimes I come home, I am so tired, and I want to go in bed and sleep but no, I have my community, my community has prayers at this time, we have meals together at a certain time, be there for supper with them, that makes a difference; to have people and the community at home with me in order to help stabilize my life as a religious sister as well.” There is not even a slight hesitation when she is asked about what she loves about nursing. “Every aspect” is the confident response. “I love what I am doing; I love nursing, so I give my all to the clients”.

With thanks to *Catholic News*, Archdiocese of Trinidad and Tobago for source information and photo for this article.