

Sister Rita Cammack earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Loretto Heights College in Denver and became a Registered Nurse in 1981. By 1984, she began her studies with the Catholic Biblical School in Denver when its founder, Sister Macrina Scott, invited her to consider becoming a Sister of St. Francis and the Sisters welcomed Rita to live at Marycrest for a year of discernment. By 1985, she entered the order. That year she also earned one CPE unit at St. Joseph Hospital in Minot, North Dakota and by 1988 earned a certificate with the Catholic Biblical School.

From the fall of 1988 to 1992, Sister Rita was called to nurse at the province-sponsored St. Joseph Hospital in Minot where she also served on the Board of Directors. She took her final vows in 1992 and shifted her role at St. Joseph Hospital to Parish Nurse Ministry where she developed a program to address the holistic care needs of the parishioners in Minot and surrounding areas, sometimes serving in 7 different parishes.

From 1995 to 1999, Sister Rita served on the Provincial Council. In 1996, Sister Rita moved from Minot to study at The University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, earning a Master of Divinity by 1999. Then she returned to Denver and was elected to again serve on the Provincial Council until 2003. From 2000 through 2003, she served as a Pastoral Associate at Holy Cross Catholic Parish in Thornton and Director of both Outreach and RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

From 2004 to the start of 2006, Sister Rita completed a renewal program in New Jersey. Between 2006 and 2007, she completed a chaplaincy program with Samaritan Education and Counseling Center (based in Colorado Springs) to earn three CPE units. During 2006 and 2007, Sister Rita served as a Chaplain Intern, then Resident, at Littleton Adventist Hospital. Later she served as a full time Chaplain at this same hospital until 2008. She also served as a Regional Community Minister for a year starting in 2007.

In 2008, Sister Rita moved to Frisco, Colorado to serve as Vice President of Mission Integration for St. Anthony Summit Medical Center. Her service there included serving as a chaplain and directing both the Pastoral Care Department and Volunteer Departments. Her time there also included serving in the Frisco community on the Chamber of Commerce Board. That year, she also became a NACC Board Certified Chaplain.

Over the years, Sister Rita has served on numerous committees and boards both within and beyond Sacred Heart Province. This includes serving as a board member on St. Joseph Hospital/Unimed Medical Center and Kenmare Community Hospitals; as board member and chair of the [Marycrest Assisted Living](#); as a board member and chair for

the Bristlecone Community Health Foundation; as a national board member of the **Leadership Conference of Women Religious** (LCWR); and as a member of the Advisory Council to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Sister Rita has also enjoyed serving her local parish in every place she has lived.

In 2011, she was called back to Denver to assume leadership as Provincial Minister and was re-elected to that position in 2015. Starting in 2020, Rita was called to serve as General Minister in Rome, Italy. Here she currently resides, serving the 1146 members of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of Penance and Christian Charity. These sisters that she journeys with offer a Franciscan presence in the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Indonesia, Brazil, the United States and Tanzania, along with other parts of our world.

S. Rita believes in a life based on gratitude – believing that ALL is gift! Called to be a witness “to the transforming love of God throughout creation” she embraces life (and religious life in particular) with zeal and joy, believing in the ever-abundant providence of God.

