

## Encore Ministry



*After a lifetime in the ministry of teaching, Sister Mary Nicholas Eiden is in a new world, an **encore ministry** of responding to the call of Jesus: “I was in prison and you visited me.” Mary Nick regularly visits the nearby women’s prison in Shakopee, Minnesota. One of her friends there is “Betty,” soon to be released after over ten years of imprisonment. Mary Nick calls her ministry chiefly listening and offering support. Betty has spent long lonely days and hours of waiting, over ten years, without contact from her family. She cries often and worries about her future living. However, she studies and prepares and takes advantage of programs the prison offers.*

*In the meantime, Betty and Mary Nick are paired in a mentoring program. They pray, discuss, evaluate, and, as Mary Nick says, “mainly I listen.”*

*Recently, as Mary Nick said good bye to Betty after a visit, she added “I am so darn proud of you,” and heard Jesus say, “I was in prison and you visited me.”*