

Nunsense

By Joan Mish

My topic is about nuns, not nonsense. You know my hearing isn't great and I did hear Dennis right with the topic "Nonsense" but the first thought that came to mind was the funny nuns that were in my life while going to Catholic schools. So I decided to change the word to "Nunsense."

I'm sure some of you have seen the fun movies *Sister Act* and *Nuns on the Run*. I had hoped to re-watch these this past week but they are not available at the library. Most of my memories about the nuns are good ... except for one!

I was in 8th grade in a small Catholic school and we had to go to mass every morning before school started. One day I was caught chatting with a friend in church and as I was entering the class room the nun stopped me. She picked me up by my ears, off the ground by at least an inch, and said "Talking is not allowed in church." I have heard stories about nuns using rulers to hit kids. I never saw that happen. Things certainly have changed now at the church where I go today in Denver. It has so much visiting and chatting it is incredible to me. It is a very friendly church and often the very young kids are crazy, chatting during the whole mass.

I also have a sister-in-law who is a nun. She has been a teacher, principal and has run various programs at a local college for seniors. I think it was like Active Minds: presentations and discussions about different ideas. She is now completely retired and I think helps with the technology in her convent. I visited with her last year and had a great visit. Years ago she taught me to say "Hail Mary full of grace, help me find a parking place." It almost always works even in downtown Denver. The idea I remember the most she said as I was going out the door was, "Remember you can break the rules!"

The nuns in my life have been good and inspiring people. Nuns can make great sense.