

***The Way We Worked Audio Tour***  
**Interview #4: Why We Worked with Miriam and Louise Vaughan**  
**National Orphan Train Complex, Concordia**

Sisters Miriam and Louise Vaughan are twins who both became Sisters of St. Joseph. They entered the convent together and then went their separate ways: Miriam began work as a teacher and Louise as a nurse

Louise always knew she wanted to be a nurse. From an early age, she knew she wanted to help people. She even told her parents that if she were a boy, she would become a doctor. However, in the 1940s and 50s, women's professions were limited to assistants in the academic, business, or medical fields so she could not pursue an MD. Later in life, she earned a doctoral degree in education and taught nursing at the university level. Louise cites a priest at a retreat for helping her discover her vocation. He asked her to consider if she wanted to be a sister, a nurse, or to combine the two and become a sister nurse.

Miriam wanted to help people as well, but she loved the thought of educating people and helping them learn. This was a way for her to become part of other people's lives by passing on knowledge. Miriam could not possibly choose a favorite story out of all the different experiences she had as a teacher. She always felt God had called her to that specific place at that time so she held favorite memories from each placement.

The twins made the decision to become sisters independent of each other for fear they would influence the other's decision. Miriam felt called to religious life when she was a junior in high school. She remembers dancing with a boy and thinking, "This is great, but it's not what I want." Soon after they entered college, Louise decided she, too, felt called to religious life. Since they lived close to the Nazareth Convent in Concordia, they decided to join the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Have you ever felt called to a profession? How did it affect your life?