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Firefighters and ambulance attendants remove a covered body from the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 15, 1963, after a deadly explosion detonated by members of the Ku Klux Klan. The bombing killed four girls. (AP, file)

by A Nun's Life Ministry

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Benedictine Sr. Madeline Contorno was 13 when four girls were killed when 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, was bombed. "Something went all through me," Contorno said. "I couldn't understand the hatred and the evil of killing people just because of their race. I think the God of justice touched me at that point.

God's call for justice was a big part of her vocation to religious life, she said.

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