

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
August 2, 1954

JUBILEE WISDOM

“No one who puts his hands to the plow and looks back is worthy of the kingdom of God.”

-Francis Rose Rivers, SSND

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60 Years

Sister Francis Rose served for 43 years as a teacher and principal in Effingham, Illinois, and in California in Fresno, Los Angeles, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Spring and Sunland. She was on the former St. Louis Province provincial council from 1979-83. In 2003, she started serving in ministries to Hispanics at Sacred Heart Parish in Verona, Missouri, Holy Trinity Parish in Aurora, Missouri, and the Tyson Corporation in Monett, Missouri. Since 2013, she volunteers at the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus in St. Louis. She received her bachelor's in English from Immaculate Heart College in California, a master's in English from San Fernando Valley State in California and a master's in education from the University of California.

Blessing of these years... I always feel comfortable walking through the front door of my life in SSND, confident in the shape and certitude of the past 60 years. I would like to share three keystones that comprise one blessing

- First, that I had the guidance and affection of Fr. Williams Stuhlmann, from the age of 5 to 27. He was our pastor and an immigrant priest from Westerwald in Germany, who spoke fluent Spanish and loved Mexicans.
- Second, meeting with Sister Tolentine Bartel and Mother Evangela Wagner at age 12 caused a major tectonic shift in my life. Their words seemed to be anointed with limitless power that moved me to leave my California home to enter the Aspiranture in St. Louis at age 13.
- The third keystone is that I had immigrant parents who were willing to let me leave home on my own adventure.

Wisdom I would like to share... The quote that always gave me courage was the quote my mentor always wrote to me: “No one who puts his hands to the plow and looks back is worthy of the kingdom of God.” Later, I would learn from wheat farmers I worked with, that in seeding, you fix on an object across the field as your end-point in order to seed a straight row. I was thrilled to see that Pope Francis uses the same quote in *Open Mind, Faithful Heart* when he writes about Abraham and the need “to let go” for the sake of the mission. Now that I am at the point of “letting go,” I can look back ... at the wonderful people I served in various places and the boundless happiness and fulfillment of the life I have lived.



School Sisters
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