

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 11, 1956

Kathy Van Hulst, SSND

60 Years

Sister Kathy served as a teacher following her first profession of vows in 1956. She taught middle and high school in Wisconsin and Illinois for 19 years before beginning seven years of pastoral ministry to the Hispanic community at Holy Trinity-Guadalupe then at St. Hyacinth parish, both in Milwaukee. She later became the director of Hispanic ministry at St. Joseph Parish in Waukesha, Wisconsin, for a total of 16 years. Since 2013, Sister Kathy continues her ministry with the Latino associates group that meets at Notre Dame of Elm Grove. She holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and English from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin.

A memory I would like to share...

It was the summer of 1961, five years after having taught fifth grade, first at Holy Assumption, West Allis, Wisconsin, then at St. Joseph School in Appleton, Wisconsin. I received a notification in the mail to transfer to Messmer High School to teach Spanish. I was delighted at the news and looked forward to the new school year. Fortunately, I felt prepared. I had completed a master's degree in Spanish literature a year before, and was recently accepted for a 7-week Spanish language summer program at Rosary College in River Forest, Illinois, one that would offer extraordinary preparation for teachers of Spanish. After arriving at Messmer, I familiarized myself with the A-LM (audio-lingual materials) textbook that I would be using. This would be a very different type of class from what students had ever experienced. I was wondering how they would accept the idea of taking a phonograph record home to memorize the lines of the dialog presented in class. English would only be used to supply the meaning of what was being presented. Class was fast-paced; students had to pay attention: repeat a word, a sentence or whatever I told them. I told them if they made a mistake, it was not their fault. It was mine for not providing a clear model. Confidence in their sharing short conversations increased. As a teacher, I was pleased with their progress. It made me happy that they could now understand and speak to native speakers with a certain degree of competency.

-formerly S. Josepha Marie