

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 11, 1956

Mary Delbert Weisensel, SSND

60 Years

Sister Mary Delbert studied at Mount Mary College following her first profession of vows in 1956. After 12 years as a primary teacher in Milwaukee and Chicago, and Rice Lake, Hewitt and Kaukauna in Wisconsin, she started her ministry in school administration as a principal for four years at St. Nicholas in Freedom, Wisconsin. In 1976, Sister Mary Delbert was sent to Arizona where she ministered as an elementary principal for nine years, as an assistant principal for three years and as a high school principal for nine years. After a year sabbatical, she set up a pre-school and child care program for Our Lady of Joy Parish in Carefree, Arizona, and was the director there for two years. Sister Mary Delbert then ministered as an auditor and advocate in the Diocese of Phoenix Marriage Tribunal for two years prior to being elected as a provincial councilor for the School Sister of Notre Dame's former Dallas province, serving for nine years. She currently follows the call to volunteer, ministering part-time as the sister donor representative in the Mission Advancement department for the SSND Central Pacific Province.

A memory I would like to share...

My journey of 60 years has gifted me with many experiences which speak to me of God's unconditional love, which at the time, seemed like a challenge. The first of many memories that comes to mind is my direction to become the superior of the community and to teach first grade at St. Nicholas in Kaukauna, Wisconsin. I was not even sure how to pronounce Kaukauna or where it was in Wisconsin, and I was certain that some secretary mistyped that I would be the superior, as I was in my 30s. In my early years in religious life, I did not have *You Are Sent* to guide me in God's will as it is revealed to me today in God's word, other people, various situations and God's movement in my heart. Growth in obedience has united me more deeply with my loving God. It has drawn me closer to a community of one mind and one heart, and has impelled me to fulfill our mission. I frequently remind myself that I am a woman of hope who is daily called and sent to give my life to bring about the oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent. As I rejoice in God loving me in my 60th year, I pray in thanksgiving for all who have touched my life through the experiences of these years and for those I have ministered.

