

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1941

Mary Leonelle Schiferl, SSND

75 Years

Sister Mary Leonelle served as an elementary and junior high school teacher following her first profession of vows in 1941. She taught for 28 years and served as an elementary school administrator for 15 years at schools in Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. God called her to leadership at Notre Dame of the Lake in Mequon, Wisconsin, from 1969 until 1973 and 1975 until 1983. Sister Mary Leonelle served in medical records for one year and in pastoral ministry for 12 years. She currently ministers in prayer in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. She holds a bachelor's in history and English from Mount Mary University in Milwaukee and a master's in educational counseling and guidance from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

What I would like to share...

WHO AM I?

From *You Are Sent*: "From the moment of our baptism we are open in a new way to the initiative of God in our lives" (2). "Our mission is to proclaim the good news as School Sisters of Notre Dame. ...As Christ was sent to show the father's love to the world, we are sent to make Christ visible by our very being" (4). "Because God first loved us, we respond in love, freely choosing to follow Christ. ...It is with a faithful God that we make our covenant of fidelity" (10).

WHAT ENERGIZES ME?

I have been strengthened and enriched through All-Province Days, Jubilee celebrations and community meetings, both extended and local. "Our vowed life together is a gift and a responsibility... [Christ's] total self-gift animates our self-gift in community life" (6). "Our living together in faith, a prophetic sign of the church, is a service to God's people" (8). "Through our ministry, we and those to whom we are sent are mutually enriched. We are enabled to grow in communion with God and with one another and in acceptance of responsibility for the Earth and its people. This mutual giving and receiving is itself a witness in our interdependent world" (25).

WHAT SUSTAINS ME?

"We are most truly who we are when we celebrate and live this sacrament of unity. Thus, Eucharist is the center of our vowed life, the strongest impetus and challenge to our community in mission" (35). The source and center of our personal, communal and apostolic life is our union with God" (27).

FOR WHAT AM I MOST GRATEFUL?

The gift of *You Are Sent*, the gift of our Spirit-filled superior generals and provincial leaders – each leading with her gifts for the time, the incomprehensible love of our God and the gift of the communities in which I was privileged to live.