

# 2012 Jubilee



First Profession  
August 2, 1987

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*One of the greatest blessings for me has been the people who have come into my life.*

**-Mary Essner, SSND**

## Mary Essner, SSND

*25 Years*

**S**ister Mary Essner has served as a teacher in Jefferson City, Missouri; pastoral minister in Burlington, Iowa; and director of Christian formation at a parish in Waterloo, Illinois. Since 2004, she has served as the parish life coordinator at Holy Trinity Parish in Aurora, Missouri, and Sacred Heart Parish in Verona, Missouri. She received a bachelor's of education from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University of Chicago.

### As I look back over the last 25 years

one of the greatest blessings for me has been the people who have come into my life. This should come as no surprise. For on my profession day, August 2, 1987, I wrote down several prayers on a tiny piece of paper and placed the paper in my shoe. I was told that prayers requested on profession day were very powerful. Included in my prayers was the following:

“God, please send people into my life who will support me in my vocation and help me to be faithful to my vows.”

God has answered this prayer many times over. I am very grateful for the relationships I have formed through the years with people who have nurtured me in all aspects of my life as a religious sister. As I celebrate my jubilee it is with gratitude that I recall all the people who have supported me through these 25 years as a School Sister of Notre Dame.

### In these 25 years I have come to deeply realize

the meaning of the words from our SSND Constitution, “It is with a faithful God that we make our covenant of fidelity.” Through the peaks and valleys, through the joys and sorrows, even through the suffering and through all the changes of our lives, God has always been faithful and ALWAYS WILL BE.