

2012 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1952

JUBILEE WISDOM

*The gift of faithfully seeking
what my vocation asks of me
keeps growing in my heart.*

-Cathryn O'Donnell, SSND

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60 Years

Sister Cathryn began her ministry teaching primary students at St. Francis de Sales School in St. Paul, Minnesota. She would spend the next 53 years teaching primary and elementary students in Dayton, Mankato, Kimball, Shakopee, St. Paul, New Brighton and Roseville, Minnesota. Upon retiring from full-time teaching in 2004, Sister Cathryn began tutoring at East Side Learning Center in St. Paul, Minnesota. She continues to serve the community and church through prayer, presence and volunteer ministry.

My quiet times of prayer give me the opportunity

to offer my litany of gratitude. I am grateful for my vocation as a School Sister of Notre Dame. My choice to follow this vocation came to me in fourth grade in the call made to us by Sister Pierre (Sister Elaine Guerber). The gift of faithfully seeking what this vocation asks of me keeps growing in my heart. I perceive small glimpses of wonder as the life and work of SSND continues in its members and ministry with such dedication. I am deeply grateful for all the blessings I have received through SSND.

When I visit the arboretum flower garden,

my eyes are delighted by a countless variety of shapes, colors, sizes and formation of flowers. I easily get caught in a world of wonder as beauty holds me in quiet contemplation. My 60 years as a School Sister is similar to the arboretum design. I have been nourished by a prayer life that has led me deeper and deeper into knowing and loving the God who called me to this vocation. My companion sisters have led me to broader perspectives of life through my relationships with them. The opportunities to study and earn my degrees have blessed me in remarkable ways. My teaching skills and relational gifts have continually been refined and enriched through the countless people who have become part of me through my years as an SSND. Friends of great variety have blessed me in countless ways as my ministry in education took me here and there. God used all these touches of graces to enlighten me. I call this profound gift, Wisdom.

My opportunity to study at DePaul University in Chicago

stands in my memory as a time of rich growth. The welcome we received from the Sisters at St. Margaret of Scotland, and their help to get us acquainted with life in Chicago, was remarkable. Some of the Sisters journeyed with us at the university and helped us take advantage of many opportunities that were so new to us. The education I received at DePaul University opened so many new doorways for me that I count it a significant phase of my learning.



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province