

2012 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1952

JUBILEE WISDOM

... my call to be one with God and His sending me to proclaim God's love through my life as it took the form of teaching, helping young people develop their God given capacities, and spiritual ministry to adults.

-Florence Wesselmann, SSND

-formerly S. Miriam George



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Florence Wesselmann, SSND

60 Years

Sister Florence served as an elementary, intermediate and secondary teacher for 24 years in schools in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. She was a principal for six years at a school in Keokuk, Iowa. From 1974-81, she served as the associate superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. From 1982-89, she was the director of initial formation for the former St. Louis Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. From 1989-2009, she was a tutor at the former Notre Dame Tutorial Center in St. Louis. Currently she served in a spiritual ministry at her parish and with the Bridges Retreat Program in St. Louis. Sister Florence earned a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, a master's in elementary education from St. Louis University and a master's in spirituality from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

A blessing is my call to be one with God and

His sending me to proclaim God's love through my life as it took the form of teaching, helping young people develop their God given capacities, and spiritual ministry to adults.

My journey began with first graders, moving on through all the grades on the elementary level where I taught in self-contained classes. During those years, I also served as music minister in the school and the parish. The most treasured moments was witnessing the children gradually grow and develop into happy, unique young men and women. Leading them in song at daily Mass, preparing little operettas, in which everyone in the school was involved, proved to be an effective tool for building a sense of faith community and a sense of self worth in the youngsters.

In 1970 I was missioned to teach English and music.

It was here that my teaching career found its truest niche. My method of inductive teaching in English Literature found a ripe harvest of insights, creativity and critical thinking as well as deep emotions the students had not experienced before.

In 2009 my formal teaching ended when we closed our Tutorial Center. It was a sad, nostalgic goodbye. But only for a short time, for since then I have become active in spiritual ministries. Now my great joy is to minister in various ways and gratefully refer to Assumption as "my parish." Here I am blessed to witness the faith of so many caring people whom I have the privilege to regard as friends. Jesus never stops gracing and loving us!

The gift of wisdom I have been given is to understand that no one person stands alone, no matter what the sense of desolation. As the poet wrote:

No man is an island,
By himself alone.
Each one is a continent,
A part of the main.