When you meet a new person, ask his or her name, if it is not offered. Make a point of remembering it. Use it the next time you meet. You will have made someone happy that day.

- Francele Sherburne, SSND

Sister Francele’s ministry in education and service to SSND and the church encompasses 55 years. As a candidate, she taught at St. Alphonsus in Chicago. As a professed sister, her first teaching position was at Holy Redeemer in Madison, Wisconsin, where she taught general elementary subjects, plus music. In Illinois, Sister Francele taught on the intermediate level at St. Mary, Galena, where she also served as church organist, and on the secondary level at Academy of Our Lady in Chicago. Beginning in 1954, she was called to Mount Mary College, where she served as an associate professor of English until 1989. She taught English literature and the field of linguistics was her specialty. In addition to her teaching duties, Sister Francele was a member of the planning committee for the School Sister magazine which was inaugurated in October 1958. She was an ongoing contributor and served as editor from 1979 until the publication ceased in 1988. Upon leaving the classroom, Sister Francele served in ministry to the elderly with Interfaith, Inc. in Milwaukee, 1989-1995. She retired from full-time ministry in 1996 but continued to serve by generously sharing her talents. A very significant volunteer role was that of tutor for 20 years at Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services, Inc., where she assisted adults to learn to read and to improve their reading skills. Sister Francele is a member of the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community where she serves through prayer and presence.

A blessing of these years I want to share is that with fidelity and perseverance, God’s “come-on,” one may sometimes experience his nearness, a light but unmistakable lure to himself – only once perhaps – but just enough to carry on in faith to the finish.

The wisdom I would like to share is when you meet a new person, ask his or her name, if it is not offered. Make a point of remembering it. Use it the next time you meet. You will have made someone happy that day.