

# 2013 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 23, 1988

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*God's timing usually  
is not mine. I keep  
learning to listen and  
receive the gifts of each day.*

—Mary Swanson, SSND



—formerly Sister Mary Ellen



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

## Mary Swanson, SSND

25 Years

**S**ister Mary joined the Jesuit volunteers with the desire to be of service to people. Eventually, came a desire to live in community. She became an SSND, completed undergraduate social work studies at Mount Mary College, Milwaukee and earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. Her ministry roles have included: campus minister at Mount Mary (1987-1994); staff member at Theresa Living Center, a homeless shelter for women and children in St. Paul, Minnesota (1996-2001); case manager at We Four Program, Inc. (2001-2004) and case manager at Supportive Community Services, Inc., elderly, developmentally disabled, physically and mentally ill people in Milwaukee (2004-present). This year, in addition to case management work, she serves as a member of the North American Interprovincial Vocation Team.

### Over the last 25 years it has been a deepening of knowing

God's faithfulness and my ability to return that faithfulness. God keeps calling me to love and out of that love I am able to love and serve others. I have grown in a loving appreciation for creation and how it expresses God's faithfulness and constant presence to me.

### Community life has been a blessing for me.

It had helped me to develop as a whole person. Coming from prayer, I go out into the world and do my best to reflect Christ's presence to others.

### I come today to ministry, with a sense of being gifted.

I gain from the people I serve as they gain from my service to them. They keep showing me the many faces of God. Each day I am looking for the gifts that God blesses us with.

### I have become a lifelong learner as the result of being an SSND.

I keep changing and growing with the many different experiences I have been offered. My world is global! When I think of School Sisters of Notre Dame, I picture the faces of my many sisters all over the world, making Christ visible by our presence as I do here in Milwaukee.

### We are missionary and are called to be in the world

and with those in need. The need is great and as SSNDs we are empowering others to join us in our mission to make Christ visible and making community where we are in our ministries and through our SSND volunteer program. In this most divided time in our country's history, the world really needs our gift of community and presence. SSNDs are responding wherever we have been called by God, because love cannot wait.

### The wisdom I would like to share is

God's timing usually is not mine. I keep learning to listen and receive the gifts of each day. God keeps calling me to a fuller life and to love more. This relationship has given me the courage to move beyond my fears into more freedom. I think on the end of my days, I want to look back and see how much I have learned to love myself, God, my neighbor, and all creation.