

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

Every day provides the opportunity to learn at least one new thing; this opportunity should be sought and treasured, a gift of God to each of us.

-Lynne Schmidt, SSND



-formerly S. Mary Karen

Lynne Schmidt, SSND

50 Years

Sister Lynne taught secondary students in St. Louis and California and theology courses at St. Louis University. She prepared catechists and other adults to understand and deepen their faith in Missouri, Illinois, Nebraska and Louisiana. Other positions included co-director of campus ministry (U of L), diocesan director of catechetics and worship (Shreveport), program director for rural ministry education, and pastoral ministry (Honduras, Nebraska and Missouri). In the St. Louis Archdiocese, she served as director of religious education at St. Peter's (Kirkwood), Sacred Heart (Valley Park) and Our Lady of the Pillar (Creve Coeur-currently). She was a provincial councilor for the former SSND St. Louis Province from 2007-11. She received a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, a master's in English from Ball State University, a master's in Divinity (word and worship specialization) from Catholic Theological Union, and a doctorate in ministry from Chicago Theological Seminary.

A blessing is the ministry to which I have been called

has offered me incredibly rich and deep relationships that have changed me and brought me to a deeper relationship with God and with the people I know. Great surprises and challenges over the years have helped me realize how truly blest I am.

The wisdom I would like to share is the importance of integrity in one's life and relationships; this provides a deep peace at the core of one's being and helps one meet challenges as they come along. All of our images of God are metaphor – we can never exhaust the Mystery of God and God's action in all creation.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

"I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me." (Gal. 2:20). I heard these words at a conference in Chicago to which I had been sent by Notre Dame High School. This passage set direction for my life's work of developing lay leadership in the church. Both the SSND commitment to education and participation in a community of women sharing a mission convinced me to answer this call as a woman religious.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry was

when a 60-year-old woman spoke to me about her sexual abuse. She had tried years earlier as a child to speak to adults, including her pastor, who either did not believe her or told her she must have somehow seduced her father. Her words to me were: "I have been waiting a long time to talk to you." That day I received the gift of listening and being available for her healing to begin. I realized then the critical need for women ministers in the church.

What would you like people today to know about SSND?

That we have been and continue to be faithful apostolic women religious striving to respond to the needs of our time with the best gifts God has given us. Day by day we try to "proclaim the good news as School Sisters of Notre Dame, directing our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent." (You Are Sent, 4)



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province