

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

God's blessings have enriched my life, whether in difficult or peace-filled times, and because of this, I have become stronger, more confident and compassionate.

-Nicolette Karcher, SSND



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Nicolette Karcher, SSND

50 Years

Sister Nicolette served as a teacher for 43 years and an administrator for four years at schools in Missouri, Illinois and North Dakota. While in North Dakota, she taught at the St. Bernard Indian Mission for 13 years. She spent two years as a substitute teacher in Belleville, Ill., and currently is a teacher aide at Notre Dame Preschool in St. Louis. She received a bachelor's in American Studies from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in reading education from Southeast Missouri State University.

The blessings of these years that I want to share is

the growth in my relationship with God over the course of the past 50 years. As I reflect on this time, the changes and challenges have brought me to a greater realization of the love I have for my God and others. God's blessings have enriched my life, whether in difficult or peace-filled times, and because of this, I have become stronger, more confident and compassionate. I feel God is and has been guiding me as I continue to say 'yes' to the call to 'do whatever his tells you.'

The wisdom I would like to share is

life is a journey upon the earth where we meet companions along the way who guide and assist, and if we are open, marvelous things can happen. Each day we are faced with choices to make and consequences to accept, but we must always try to keep our focus on the One who leads us to a new life. Let us also remember that we are all a part of God's plan as we gently walk upon this earth.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame taught me

in grades 1 through 12 at St. Philip's, East St. Louis, Ill.; St. Stephens, Caseyville, Ill.; and Notre Dame Academy, Belleville, Ill. As early as grade 6, I felt a desire to become a sister and teacher. I respected and admired the SSNDs who taught me, and often they reached out encouraging me in my vocation, especially in grades 7 and 8. They were an example of holiness and kindness and always seemed to enjoy being together. This is what drew me to the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Meaningful times in my ministry

I am very grateful and feel fortunate to have ministered among those who are less fortunate during my teaching career. Being with the children in the inner city (St. Louis one year and East St. Louis six years) gave me an insight into the African American culture. Often it was a great learning experience, a challenge and, also, a blessing.

For 13 years I ministered among the Lakota Sioux Indians

on the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota. My life has been so enriched by the people and their culture. This experience has blessed me with a love for the Creator, Mother Earth, and a compassion for the oppressed. I treasure this time in my life for all that was given to me through the Lakota children and people.