

# 2013 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 31, 1963

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*Listening and following  
is gradually revealed during  
life's journey supported  
by prayer, family, friends,  
community and the  
people of God.*

**-Mary Ellen Doherty, SSND**



*-formerly S. Mary Joan Elise*



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

## Mary Ellen Doherty, SSND

*50 Years*

**S**ister Mary Ellen began teaching primary students at St. Anne School in Milwaukee for 11 years. Her second educational mission was at St. Mary School in West Bend, Wis., where she taught junior high students for nine years. Next, she served for 11 years as director of religious education at St. Joseph Parish in Wautoma, Wis. prior to being asked in 1985 to work in pastoral ministry at the parish. Since 1996, she has ministered as pastoral associate at St. Joseph. Sister Mary Ellen received a bachelor's in social science from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in religious studies from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich.

**With the passing of these 50 years I am more and more aware** that life's entire journey is a gift. As School Sisters of Notre Dame, we are an international community and I have been blessed with some international experiences and meeting sisters from other areas. The call to SSND is a daily gift; sometimes I am more aware of that than others. That call is renewed each day as I am supported by family, friends and community. The wisdom and mentoring shared by the sisters has been a great support through the years.

**The many opportunities for spiritual growth and formation** along with my education prepared me as an educator for all that these years would hold. My ministry has included teaching, religious education and pastoral ministry. The students, teachers, and parents have touched my life and left lasting impressions. The move to pastoral ministry is a call to education in another way with its many parts of parish life. Being with people at the special moments of life: birth, baptisms, weddings, anniversaries, surgery or illness, death and funerals are graced times. I feel honored to be part of all these happenings. They have touched my life and helped me to grow. I always seem to receive more than I give during the encounters with each person or family.

**Our faithful God was always there amid joys, surprises, challenges** and change. Each new day is a chance to begin again. My prayer each day is "Lord, take me where you want me to go. Let me meet who you want me to meet. Tell me what you want me to say, and keep me out of the way, remembering that it is the Lord's work."

**The wisdom I would like to share is that God first loved me** and my response is to faithfully listen to God in the many ways God comes in my life. Listening and following is gradually revealed during life's journey supported by prayer, family, friends, community and the people of God.

**We have a God of surprises** who is faithful, loving and always there.