

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

Every calling is an opportunity for life so why not say "yes." The Creator of our life is in the call.

-Rose Rita Huelsmann, SSND



-formerly S. Cyra



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Rose Rita Huelsmann, SSND

50 Years

Sister Rose Rita served as a teacher for 18 years and as an administrator for nine years in schools in Missouri, Illinois and California. She was a counselor and staff for Boys Hope in St. Louis for four years. She served in local leadership for the St. Louis motherhouse for four years. Since 2004, she has been the coordinator of volunteers for Criminal Justice Ministry, a program of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul 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 guidance counseling/education from Emporia State University in Kansas.

I am grateful for the abundance of grace I have received

over the years. I have been privileged to be a part of so many different ministries and meet such beautiful people that I got to see a little bit of how big our God is. The information about our Universe that has been coming out the last 30 years or so tells me I don't know the half of God yet.

The wisdom I would like to share is

about the importance of saying "yes" to all of life's seasons and experiences. "No" seems to build walls but "yes" seems to say I trust life to teach me what I need to know. The giver of life is Love who has only our good in mind. Every calling is an opportunity for life so why not say "yes." The Creator of our life is in the call.

My most recent ministry is teaching in jail.

I gave a class at city jail where I taught anger management. One of the men in class was particularly annoyed with what I taught. What I was teaching was a bunch of "cow manure." I simply replied that it could be just that. But I asked him to please stay awake for his teacher to come. It seemed like I was not his teacher. About three weeks later he asked if he could bring his cellmate to class. Some two months later, I was in the lobby of jail and that same man was there to pick up his property. He told me the judge let him go because of the progress he made during his time of lockup. He gave me much credit but I could feel it was a higher thing going on. It was the affirmation that I needed on a day I was questioning why I did what I did. I was evidently being used to channel a grace this man needed. That was enough to say I'll just keep doing what I do. Teach.

I would like people to know is

that School Sisters of Notre Dame are evolving just as Church is evolving and all the groups in the Church are evolving. We are trying to be "good news" as we pass through; we are trying to read the signs of the times and respond to the needs of planet earth and all the beings that live on it. And that the poor are our connection to the gospel of Jesus Christ.