

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

*To live what many would call
"God's will" I have to live
from my own inner core,
my own inner truth
and my own best self.*

-Rosemary Bonk, SSND



-formerly S. Mary Margaret Jerome

Rosemary Bonk, SSND

50 Years

Sister Rosemary served as an intermediate and secondary teacher for 33 years at schools in Wisconsin. This was followed by 12 years as a pastoral minister at parishes in Milwaukee. Since 2008, she has directed the SSND Associates program in Elm Grove, Wisconsin and worked in spiritual direction. Sister Rosemary received a bachelor's in social science and education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee; a master's in library science from the University of Wisconsin in Madison; and a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University of Chicago.

The blessing of these years has been the marvel of being

a part of so many people's lives...of different ages, cultures, spiritual places in their search for the God of their lives. When I taught in the African-American community, I was amazed at their ability to speak so easily of God and sing God's praises so enthusiastically. As I lived in an Hispanic area, I was greeted with their gentleness. In recent years it's been a delight know two families from Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. I've had incredible times of walking with persons in parish life... when I would say to myself, "I can't believe I got this job!" as I joyfully met each day.

The blessing that has made the blessings of ministry possible

is that of living and growing in life alongside such incredible women, women who have repeatedly inspired me and taught me to live in a well-balanced, prayerful, and loving way that made ministry possible. Their example has shown me how to embrace the vows ever more deeply during these 50 years. They have inspired me to live poverty by striving to live ever more simply with a heart for the poor; to live celibacy by enjoying their friendship and support, a sign to the world of what community can be; and to live obedience by listening to God speak so that I serve in ways that empower myself and others.

The wisdom I would like to share is...

- Things really come to life when I am living in God...truly living in God. Having had the privilege of making a thirty day retreat based on the Gospel of John, I have found the words of John 15 that say, "Abide in my love" to be the cornerstone of my life.
- To live what many would call "God's will" I have to live from my own inner core, my own inner truth and my own best self. When I take time to listen to that truth, I know that I will be led to what God desires of me. The poet Rumi says, "Let the beauty we love be what we do."
- Having been a teacher for many years, I have recently come to realize more deeply that what former students remember is not what I taught them... in terms of content... but how I treated them.
- The importance of letting go... of relationships through death or moving... of a certain job... of a certain vision is quite difficult and takes time, but when one can let go, there is no limit to the new possibilities that life can offer.