

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
July 31, 1953

JUBILEE WISDOM

I am grateful to God for having called me to the religious life, having loved me and guided me all these years.

-Cordula Wekenborg, SSND



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Cordula Wekenborg, SSND

60 Years

Sister Cordula served as a teacher and principal in Missouri, Illinois and California for 54 years. During those years, she taught music for 10 years in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and 24 years in Effingham, Illinois. She was also a parish musician in Effingham. She volunteered in community service for several years at the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus in St. Louis. She currently serves in the ministry of prayer and presence at the Sarah Community in Bridgeton, Missouri. She received a bachelor's in music education from Immaculate Heart in California.

I am grateful to God for having called me to the religious life, having loved me and guided me all these years. Several times I was given obediences that I didn't feel prepared for, but God was always there, helping and supporting me.

The wisdom I would like to share is

If I had known then what I know now! Life would have been easier.

Our home was across the street from St. Aloysius Convent, St. Louis. On Saturdays, I would help S. Lucentia clean the vigil light stands and, in 7th & 8th grades, I would go to the store for S. Richtrudis to purchase things she needed for supper. The sisters made me feel welcomed in their convent, and we had fun working together. I had two aunts, Sister Mary Lawrence and Sister Delphine (Cornelius) Venneman, and a great aunt, Sister Lorenzo (who worked in Canada), all SSNDs.

Meaningful times in my ministry included:

- The year the Diocese of Springfield-Cape was to celebrate its 25th Jubilee, I was asked to prepare the music for the event. Each of the parishes around Cape was invited to be a part of a choir. I taped the music for each parish and an hour before the Mass, 200 voices met in the arena to rehearse the music, and the music sounded great for the celebration. The bishop applauded our effort.
- As a postulant, I surprised my parents by playing the Mass for their 25th wedding anniversary. My dad cried with joy. Years later, I played for their 50th wedding anniversary. Since they sacrificed so much for me, I thought that I should play for both of their funeral Masses. I was also able to play for the funeral Mass of my oldest brother.
- A former choir member at St. Anthony, Effingham, passed and \$3,000 was donated to the choir. With this money, hand bells were purchased. I taught the junior high students to play them. I was asked to have a group play for a priest first Mass in the Cathedral in Springfield, Illinois. This was exciting for them and for me.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame have been known as great teachers and leaders. Please learn about us and our work by viewing our website. Many prayers are being said all over the world for those who ask.