

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
July 22, 1953

JUBILEE WISDOM

Through acceptance and putting my best effort into each new call I grew professionally and spiritually – deepening my trust and faith in God.

-Gabriel Mary Spaeth, SSND



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60 Years

Sister Gabriel Mary ministered in education, leadership and research. For 35 years, she taught students on primary, intermediate, junior and senior high levels. She had one teaching assignment outside Wisconsin, at St. Mary in Galena, Ill. Wisconsin schools where she taught were St. Joseph in Appleton; Spectrum Alternative High School and St. Anne in Milwaukee; St. Mary in Elm Grove; St. James in Mukwonago; Holy Name in Sheboygan; Our Lady of Peace in Marshfield; St. Stanislaus in Berlin and Berlin Catholic Schools in Berlin. Additionally, she was principal at St. James, St. Stanislaus and Berlin Catholic Schools and Spectrum Alternative High School. From 1987-1991 she served as a provincial councilor for the former SSND Milwaukee Province. Sister Gabriel Mary worked as a research associate on the Nun Study at the University of Kentucky from 1991-2006. She assisted the study as a consultant for one year, prior to retiring in 2007. She received a bachelor's in sociology and English from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in administration and education from the University of Wisconsin. Sister Gabriel Mary joined Notre Dame of Elm Grove community in 2007 where she ministers as coordinator of the computer lab and through her prayer and presence.

These 60 years have been filled with many blessings.

I have never regretted becoming a School Sister of Notre Dame. I am also grateful for a special grace and blessing of peace and contentment when obedience called me to a new mission or assignment. Through acceptance and putting my best effort into each new call I grew professionally and spiritually – deepening my trust and faith in God.

I was drawn to the School Sisters of Notre Dame because

my good parents first instilled in me a love of God and an attitude of caring and helping others in need, which was reinforced by the School Sisters of Notre Dame who were my elementary school teachers. From the example of the Sisters in school, I had wanted to be a sister from middle grades on – I wanted to give my life to God in helping others.

One of the times in ministry which stands out is the 16 years

I worked with the Nun Study. Meeting so many of our elder sisters in all the areas of the country, greatly enriched my life. These women were a living example of prayer, love of God, and deep faith, and trust. They were living life to the full as much as they could with their diminishment. They were excellent examples of “aging gracefully.”



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province