

# 2013 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 19, 1953

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Today there is no longer a choice between violence and non-violence. It is either non-violence or non-existence."*

*Martin Luther King Jr.*

**-Gladys Schmitz, SSND**



*-formerly S. Susan*

## Gladys Schmitz, SSND

*60 years*

**S**ister Gladys earned a degree in chemistry and mathematics from St. Theresa College, Winona, Minnesota. She taught high school and college classes before she entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. During her first years as a professed religious she taught in secondary schools in Minnesota, Iowa and North Dakota. She became interested in beginning a new venture in life and by 1974 Sister Gladys was a registered nurse. This ministry took her to Chicago where, until 1993, she worked in five different hospitals. Through all those years Sister Gladys continued to follow her passion of work on social justice issues. For the last 20 years, Sister Gladys has worked in the justice, peace and integrity of creation office in Mankato.

**Jubilee wisdom I want to share is that long term work on justice and peace issues can only be maintained on a foundation of prayer and a consistent, daily effort to follow, as best one can, the core teaching of Jesus on non-violent love of enemy as well as friend.**

**Blessings of these years I want to share are the gift of God's continuous call and the certainty that this was and is God's specific call to me. I receive this blessing with an immense sense of gratitude.**

**A ministry experience I value was living with Sister Anne Mayer** in developing Sisterhouse, a transitional home for women returning from jail or prison. It enabled the guests to live in community with us, while receiving help in rehabilitation and reshaping their lives. At the same time, I was working with other groups on issues of hunger, poverty, human rights, peace, war, disarmament, nuclear weapons and power. These many and varied experiences have broadened my vision and concern for injustices done to our earth and all of its inhabitants. This remains a passion in my life today.

**A life-changing opportunity I share is the privilege of spending** seven weeks in Guatemala in 1967. My sister, Joan and I visited our three SSND missions in Patzun, Nahuala and San Lucas. This was an eye-opening experience in witnessing ongoing injustices, daily. Poverty now has a new meaning and a new face. I learned about death squads and saw how they operate. Thus began another whole area of study and concern which was further developed into a second visit to Guatemala seven years later.