

# 2013 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 22, 1953

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*I cherished all my days in the  
service of the community.*

**-Mary Alyce Lach, SSND**



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

## Mary Alyce Lach, SSND

60 Years

**S**ister Mary Alyce served in education for 25 years as teacher and principal at elementary schools in Wisconsin and Michigan. Next, she shifted her ministry to college, directing early childhood education and teaching children's literature for 27 years at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin. She was a guest professor at Boston College, the University of Kansas, the University of Dilimon in Manila and the College of Notre Dame in Kyoto. In 2005, she was elected to a six-year leadership term for SSND's Milwaukee Province. Sister Mary Alyce received a bachelor's in English with minors in history, sociology and religion from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee; a master's in guidance, counseling and English from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa; and a Ph.D. in early childhood and children's literature from The Ohio State University in Columbus. Currently, she is in Brakel, Germany where she is researching and writing on Frances (nee Huber) Gerhardinger, mother of Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger, foundress of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

### **A blessing of these years I want to share is**

my unexpected election as a councilor at the age of 72. At first I was befuddled by the election's results of 2005. I had plans for my retirement. I would teach at St. Norbert College until I was 75 and then I would settle down to prayer, gardening, writing and enjoying the company of my family and friends in my old age. I had even begun arrangements to volunteer in the natal care unit at the local hospital. When Sister Rosemary Howorth, asked if I would accept the election results, I found myself, saying "yes" – "yes indeed."

### **Well, I tell you, saying "yes" to God's call**

for me to serve as a councilor was the beginning of six wonderful, grace filled years. I had so much joy and fun serving the sisters as a member of Milwaukee's Provincial Council from 2005 to 2011. I loved being a councilor. I discovered the wonders of dedication and the passion for ministry to the poor among our sisters. I cherished all my days in the service of the community.

### **An additional and unexpected adventure**

came my way during my term. I was privileged to be part of the Quad, the leadership teams of the four provinces that were transformed into the Central Pacific Province.

### **The other 54 years were also happy years**

for me as a School Sister of Notre Dame. To quote an old movie title, "It was a wonderful life." For this I say thanks. I ask the good God to reward all those who helped and continue to assist me in my search for Truth and Love from my entrance day in 1947 at the old motherhouse on Milwaukee Street to the present moment.