

# 2013 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 19, 1953

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*Make every day as positive  
as possible and be ready to  
collaborate with others in  
doing good wherever you are.*

**-Rita Marie Schneider, SSND**



## Rita Marie Schneider, SSND

*60 years*

**S**ister Rita Marie's career in education began with 27 years teaching children in the primary grades. Then, a year in pastoral ministry and in community service was followed by 24 years working as an advocate in the Marriage Tribunal in the diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. A year as a volunteer and on sabbatical led to work as an auditor in the diocesan Marriage Tribunal of Winona, Minnesota. During her time as auditor, she also did community service at Good Counsel convent and is now in retirement.

**The blessings of these years that I want to share are all the spiritual** and educational opportunities that were available to me over the years. Each of these made a difference in my life and growth into the unique person God intended me to be. God's goodness and grace guided me through many challenges.

**A transitional experience I had was working with the Marriage** Encounter program. After many years as a teacher in elementary grades, I was drawn to adapt my skills to the needs of adults, especially in regard to the brokenness in family life and marriage that is a reality for far too many. To walk with them, know their pain and try to guide them into better solutions was very much of a grace for me. Marriage Encounter involvement prepared me well for my future ministry as an Advocate in Marriage Tribunals.

**A ministry that was particularly meaningful for me was** 30 years of working in the Marriage Tribunal. It gave me the opportunity to extend assistance and compassion to many adults who had suffered through divorce and needed another chance in life. Through God's grace, it proved to be a life giving and challenging experience.

**An additionally meaningful volunteer ministry was assisting** in re-establishing the St. Vincent DePaul Society in our area. It helped to provide immediate assistance to those who were in dire need. Being with the poor, feeling their need and being able to provide assistance was a very meaningful experience for me.