

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
July 22, 1943

JUBILEE WISDOM

*Saying the vows takes
a short time but living
them takes a lifetime.*

-Anne Marie Tholkes, SSND



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70 years

Sister Anne Marie's first 40 years as a professed religious were lived in ten different towns in Minnesota and Iowa ministering as a primary teacher. When health issues terminated her classroom work, she found help adjusting to this challenge in the four-month personal renewal program at Chatawa. This led to 18 years of a ministry as librarian at St. Joseph the Worker School and at Good Counsel in Mankato. During her years of ministry, Sister Anne Marie shared her interest in philately and worked with many students in producing magnificent stamp collections. Since 2002, by her prayer and presence in retirement, she continues her gentle living in community.

I have always felt God's love and continued blessing

during these 70 years of religious life. I thank my parents, my family, relatives and friends for helping me respond to God's plan for living a communal life of prayer and service as shown me through the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. When my hearing loss and my rheumatoid arthritis became severe, these limitations led me to leave teaching and take up the librarian ministry. It was then that I really learned to say yes to what the Lord asked.

Jubilee helps me reflect on all that has gone on day by day

these last 70 years. Saying the vows takes a short time but living them takes a lifetime. Putting God at the center of my life has helped me live the vows.

Some special events that have been part of my years as a religious

were the Rome Renewal program from June 1-30, 1986 and the Interprovincial Renewal program held at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa from January 23-May 23, 1985. The programs helped me grow in my understanding of church and SSND history, experience cultural events, and deepened my personal and spiritual life.