

2013 Jubilee



First Profession
July 22, 1938

JUBILEE WISDOM

*Do not fear doing or taking
on something . . . have
complete confidence
and trust in God.*

-Dorothy Merth, SSND



-formerly S. M. Annella

Dorothy Merth, SSND

75 Years

Sister Dorothy was a teacher and musician the first 41 years of her religious life. Most of those years were spent in elementary and secondary schools in Minnesota. She was well trained in voice, organ and piano. Her musical career changed in 1979 when she became teacher placement director for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. After several years, Sister Dorothy began work in the marriage tribunal for the archdiocese. During those years an interest in alternative health led her to become a certified health provider in Touch for Health. To this day she continues to help others in this ministry at Good Counsel. At age 95 she shares her musical expertise by singing in the choir at Good Counsel.

As I look back at 75 years of religious life, several instances stand out in my memory. One example was back in 1944. This was Labor Day and school was to start the next day. The principal came to me and said I was being transferred to North Dakota where I was to take the place of a highly educated and proficient person. The pastor was educated in Gregorian chant and I had little training, so I was frightened. When the pastor asked me how much Gregorian chant I knew, I decided to let him know the truth. I worked hard at it and did meet his approval.

One other incident that changed my life was at St. Agnes School in Saint Paul when I volunteered to represent the teachers at a state meeting. Little did I know that, as a result, I found myself on a state committee for writing criteria for teachers to get state certificates. That led me to work in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis Marriage Tribunal.

The wisdom I would like to share is not to fear doing or taking on something. As I look back, how many times in my later years I did this with complete confidence and trust in God.