

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
January 28, 1989

JUBILEE WISDOM

*There is a call
from God to all of us,
we must listen carefully,
we must pay attention
and we must follow.*

-Raquéel Ortez, SSND

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25 Years

Sister Raquéel entered the novitiate for the School Sisters of Notre Dame in El Progreso, Honduras. She taught at Instituto Notre Dame in El Progreso for five years. She moved to St. Louis, Missouri, to study and earned her bachelor's in social work from St. Louis University. She worked for five years as a social worker for Catholic Community Services in St. Louis and for seven years as a pastoral assistant at St. Charles Borromeo in St. Charles, Missouri. She currently serves on the North American Vocation/Affiliate Team for the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

A blessing of these years I want to share is that God's presence has been so evident in my life. God touched and continues to touch my life through people and events that came into my life. When I see myself from 25 years ago, I have to smile and say "Gracias Dios." I am a better person, I am realized, I am happy... I am blessed!

The wisdom I would like to share is that there is a call from God to all of us, we must listen carefully, we must pay attention and we must follow. We will not feel fulfilled and complete until we follow God's call.

There are many things that drew me to SSND. First, their happiness but later was their commitment to serve others. I saw in the sisters their willingness to go where God was calling them to go. Another important thing that I saw was the sisters' special and unique way to become part of all of us even though we were from another country, another culture, another language, etc.

I want people to know we [SSNDs] love God so much that we want to bring God in all we do. Also, that we educate for the future. Most of all, I want people to know we are enthusiastic and Spirit-filled women religious. We are international. Within our community, there are many cultures and languages represented.