

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1964

JUBILEE WISDOM

*The importance of being
open and awake to the
opportunities God continues
to place before us.*

-Mary Elise Silvestri, SSND

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50 Years

Sister Mary Elise served for 15 years as a teacher, principal and guidance counselor in St. Louis, Missouri; Washington, Missouri; and Effingham, Illinois. She was a director of religious education for 14 years at Illinois parishes in Belleville, Glen Carbon, Millstadt, Paderborn and Quincy. She served as co-director of SSND associates, 1971-74, and SSND affiliate director, 1976-79. From 1995-2006 she directed the Immigrant and Refugee Women's Program in St. Louis. From 2009-10, she taught English at an SSND elementary and secondary school in Hungary. She currently serves as refugee outreach coordinator in Mankato, Minnesota. She received her bachelor's in history from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, a master's in guidance counseling education from University of Missouri-Columbia and a master's in spirituality from Creighton University in Nebraska.

A blessing of these years is the richness of my life as a result of sharing community life with so many sisters who have supported, mentored and challenged me along the way, resulting in lifelong friendships. I have also experienced opportunities I never would have dreamed of, but which shaped my worldview, my spiritual life, my relationships and my ability to respond to the call to make one wherever I was sent.

The wisdom I would like to share is the importance of being open and awake to the opportunities God continues to place before us. I have learned that each opportunity or "call" to which I respond has opened my heart to greater trust, broadened my vision and led me to greater compassion toward my fellow companions along the journey—humans as well as all creation.



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province