

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1964

JUBILEE WISDOM

*Believe in God's words,
"I can do all things in Christ
who strengthens me."*

-Helen Robeck, SSND

-formerly S. Mary Urban

Helen Robeck, SSND

50 Years

Sister Helen began her ministry as a primary teacher in Minnesota and Iowa. Among her most unusual experiences was working with a mixture of ethnic groups in St. Paul among children from ten different countries. Later, working among the poorest of the poor in Minneapolis gave her experiences like no other. By 1999, Sister Helen was teaching in the Mankato Catholic schools. Since 2003, she has been a creative teacher in the Good Counsel Learning Center.

The blessing of my years is my call to religious life. What drew me to SSND was the witness of the sisters I had in school. It has been a great joy for me to live with some of my teachers. I see them as women of prayer and great mentors in education. I grew up on a farm and knew the value of dependence on God and working together. These values came with me as my gift to community. My world has been broadened in so many ways and I am grateful. I have learned to trust God, to place all situations in His hands and ask for guidance.

When I was transferred to inner city Minneapolis in 1988, it was a wonderful opportunity for me to be with the poor. I met them in a variety of ways – riding the buses to school or greeting the early morning folks leaving the shelter, those who had spent the night under our fire escape or over a sidewalk grate to stay warm. I learned a gentleness from them and a great appreciation for all of nature from the Native Americans. As I'd leave the school, I'd see 450-500 people of all ages waiting for the Loaves and Fishes supper. Sometimes I would join them. Now, at Good Counsel, I work with Somali women, men and children. I stand in awe as I see how determined they are to learn to speak, read and write English.



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province