

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1964

JUBILEE WISDOM

*Nothing is impossible with
the help and grace from God.*

-Joan Backes, SSND

-formerly S. Joseph Maureen



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Joan Backes, SSND

50 Years

Sister Joan served as a teacher for 18 years in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.; Jefferson City, Missouri.; Breese, Illinois; and Fort Madison, Iowa. She also was director of religious education in Cobden, Illinois. From 1983-2013, she served in parish ministry and as director of religious education for St. Mary in Anna, Illinois. She currently volunteers in St. Louis. She received her bachelor's in economics from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, a master's in business education from Emporia State University in Kansas, and a master's in religious education from St. John's University in Minnesota.

My year of Jubilee offers me the opportunity to express my gratitude to God for the journey I embarked upon some 50 years ago and to awaken myself to the showers of continuous blessings and graces that flooded my life. I rejoice and celebrate my years of ministry as a religion and business teacher and also as a pastoral associate and director of religious education. I give thanks and praise to God for all the wonderful people who I had the privilege of meeting and the memories that are mine to enjoy as I reflect back on the gift of so many, many people who touched my life and may never understand how or why. I especially am thankful for all of the children who were so eager to learn about God and the blessings of sharing together the love God has for us. I am also very grateful for the blessing of community life and the numerous opportunities available for prayers and spiritual growth. I also give thanks to God for the gifts of my family, who greatly supported me with prayers and the spiritual nourishment of a deep faith and love of God.

The wisdom I would like to share...

- God's light shines through the smiles and eyes of a child.
- Nothing is impossible with the help and grace from God.
- Receive the blessings from God as you live each day and believe that God's light will shine in the midst of darkness and pain.

Some meaningful times in my ministry...

The community sharing and spiritual awakening of Koinonia Retreats that I shared with the people at St. Mary's Parish in Anna, Illinois. The joy and blessings of Vacation Bible Schools and the excitement of children singing and enjoying this special time to learn about God and the great stories of the Bible.