

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1964

JUBILEE WISDOM

To pray with faith as Jesus told us, "All things are possible with God."

-Joanne O'Connor, SSND

Joanne O'Connor, SSND

50 Years

Sister Joanne spent her first 20 years teaching elementary and high school students in Minnesota. During this time she earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish from Mount Mary College and her master's degree, also in Spanish, at Middlebury College, Vermont. Two years of ministry in Puerto Rico learning the culture and attaining a greater fluency in Spanish followed. Her favorite ministry was teaching Spanish for seven years to church ministers at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio. Sister Joanne then did parish ministry for seven years in Willmar, Minnesota as Director of Social Concerns and Hispanic Ministry. Next she was Spanish instructor at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. At present, Sister Joanne is following an aspect of our call by transforming the world through education by teaching Spanish in Jefferson City, Missouri.

I considered it a privilege to use my Spanish skill while in North Carolina to serve the Latino immigrants and migrant workers in a variety of roles. In Spanish I presided at Word-Communion services, did music ministry at Mass, helped with Hispanic women's retreats, and was medical interpreter at a clinic for the poor. In addition, I prayed with migrants at Christmas Tree Camp and helped with weekend retreats at church when the priest did not know Spanish.

I grew to love and respect the immigrants and migrants for their great faith, love, courage and generosity. To follow my passion for interpreting at clinics for the poor, I recently studied Spanish medical interpreting; however, at present I am filling a great need by teaching Spanish at Helias High School, Jefferson City, Missouri. I do this with great gratitude for the 12 years of SSND education I had in my youth and I know I am following the call of Mothers Theresa and Caroline to educate young people.