

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 30, 1964

JUBILEE WISDOM

*It matters not what the
day brings, what matters
is what I do with it.*

-Joelle Marie Aflague, SSND

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50 Years

Sister Joelle Marie has ministered as a teacher, computer specialist and pastoral assistant. Her ministry locations included schools, organizations and parishes at Yona, Talofofu and Mangilao in Guam; Yap in the Caroline Islands; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and Vancouver, Washington. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Mary College. Currently, Sister Joelle Marie serves as the pastoral assistant of outreach for St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver, Washington where she has ministered for the last 22 years.

A blessing of these years I want to share is... Letting go and allowing God to lead. It was some years into my new ministry as pastoral care assistant at St. Joseph Parish in Vancouver, Washington when I came across an inspirational story entitled, "Bicycling with God." I don't remember who wrote it but it left a deep impression on me as I began reflecting on the cyclist's experience which eventually led me into relating it to my own life experiences. The times I was in control were the times I was in my "comfort zone." The routes were familiar, routines often became mechanical; easy to get by and hard to get lost. It could be rather monotonous, at times boring but predictable. As I started reminiscing—focusing on the tough times in my life. I began to notice a pattern and realized that those were probably the times God had taken the lead. There were sharp unexpected turns on rugged paths. There were challenging rough, hilly roads leading to unfamiliar places, encountering people from all walks of life. Like the cyclist, I was afraid at first, but now as I am learning to trust him, I am also gaining an insight into his marvelous sense of humor. God has truly blessed me with many gifts and has enabled me to generously share them with the people, wherever he led me. With God pedaling, 50 years seems such a short time. Could this be how time will be in eternity?

The wisdom I would like to share is... It matters not what the day brings, what matters is what I do with it. This was a gift of wisdom that I had been asking God to grant me for many years. Now as I look back to these 50 years of religious life, I realize God had somehow answered my prayer without my knowing it. How could I have managed to go through 50 years of non-stop service without submitting a sabbatical request and still be actively enjoying full time ministry? I credit this to God's answer to my prayer, enabling me to take each year, a day at a time, examining all its possibilities; searching for something positive if not exciting of whatever came with it, especially when there's a sense of negativity surrounding it.

God is wonderfully good to me. May God be praised forever.