

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 30, 1964

JUBILEE WISDOM

*Through our ministry, we
and those to whom we are
sent are mutually enriched.*

**-Vincent Marie
Balajadia, SSND**

Vincent Marie Balajadia, SSND

50 Years

Sister Vincent Marie ministered for 35 years in Catholic education as a teacher and principal, serving at the schools of St. Anne, St. Michael and Notre Dame Middle School in Milwaukee; on Guam at Mount Carmel in Agat, St. Francis in Yona, San Vicente in Barrigada and at Notre Dame High School in Talafofo where she also served as president for three years; and on Yap at St. Mary. Her service also included assisting schools as a resource person and librarian as well as staffing the Notre Dame House of Studies and the SSND community's archives in Agana. Sister Vincent Marie was called to SSND leadership twice, serving as regional councilor for a total of six years. She received her bachelor's degree in Spanish from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and her master's degree in education from the University of Guam. Since her retirement in 2009, she has been a member of the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community in Wisconsin, serving in volunteer ministry and through her prayer and presence.

A blessing I want to share is my special time in Yap. In 1985 I heard about the need for a sister at the Yap mission. The words from Isaiah 6:8 came to me so clearly: "Then I heard the Lord say, whom shall I send?" Who will go for us? I couldn't help but respond: "I will go, send me!" as did Isaiah. I was missioned on Yap for 10 years as teacher and principal. The first few years were very challenging with trying to learn the Yapese language and adapting to their way of life.

Here is a short lesson about Yap [Wa'ab]. It is located in the Caroline Islands of the western Pacific Ocean. It is a wonderful mix of past, present, and future where an ancient culture exists side by side with the 21st century. Yap has unique customs and way of life. The people are friendly, warm and generous.

Our main ministry in Yap was centered at St. Mary's School and Church and visiting the elders and the sick in the villages. Even with our limited use of the language, our visits were greatly appreciated. The three most valuable words I remember are: Mogethin [How are you?], Kam~magar [thank you] and Kafel [good bye].

Mother Theresa's spirit came alive as "we serve in areas of urgent need and like her, we exclude no one from our concern, but are especially sensitive to youth and women and are impelled to prefer the poor."

The wisdom I would like to share comes from *You Are Sent*, #25 [SSND Constitution]: "Through our ministry, we and those to whom we are sent are mutually enriched."



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province