

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 13, 1954

JUBILEE WISDOM

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-Jolene Heiden, SSND

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60 Years

Sister Jolene served for 22 years as a primary teacher. She taught at Holy Cross in Milwaukee; St. John Vianney in Brookfield, Wis.; and St. Frances Cabrini in West Bend, Wis. Her ministry direction shifted in 1976 when she became the director of Notre Dame House, a retreat and renewal center in Milwaukee, where she served for five years. Following studies at the Institute for Spiritual Leadership in Chicago, she provided spiritual direction for individuals at The Cenacle Center in Wayzata, Minn. Sister Jolene was called to congregational service as director of initial formation with the interprovincial novitiate in St. Louis for four years and as a provincial councilor for six years with the former Milwaukee Province. She served for four years as a pastoral associate at St. Augustine Parish in Phoenix and for nine years with the Diocese of Ft. Wayne-South Bend as a program director for pastoral and parish ministry. Sister Jolene earned her bachelor's degree in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and her master's degree in reading education from Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee. Since her retirement in 2007, she has served in volunteer ministry, spiritual direction and through her prayer and presence.

The blessing of these years is that God is faithful and has loved me every step of the way. God continues inviting me to be open to the daily opportunities and to respond because "Love cannot wait."

As I reflected on these years, it is the wisdom I have garnered through the building of many meaningful relationships, the places and opportunities I have experienced through ministry plus the learnings that all is gift in my life and I am truly blessed and grateful!

What drew me to SSND was as a child their spirit of joy, their sense of community that I saw among them and the care shown to each student when I was in school. I had great teachers through all my years in school!

A meaningful experience from my teaching as a primary teacher was to meet some of my students as adults and see where life has taken them.