

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 13, 1954

JUBILEE WISDOM

Let God's love for you and the love of those around you be your greatest treasures.

-Rita Clare Swenarski, SSND

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60 Years

Sister Rita Clare served in elementary schools as a teacher for 32 years and as principal for 18 years. One year, she took on the dual roles of principal and director of religious education. Her ministry locations in Wisconsin were at St. Casimir, Milwaukee; St. Mary, Elm Grove; St. Bruno, Dousman; Holy Assumption, West Allis; Our Lady Queen of Peace, Milwaukee; St. Alexander, Milwaukee; and Blessed Sacrament, Milwaukee. She also served at St. Adalbert School in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Montini Catholic School in McHenry, Illinois. In 2008, she began working with adults as a teacher and tutor with Milwaukee Achiever Literacy Services. Sister Rita Clare received a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's degree in education, counseling and guidance from Marquette University in Milwaukee. Though she officially retired in 2013, she remains active in volunteer ministries and continues to tutor and to serve by her prayer and presence.

A blessing of these years I want to share is my deep appreciation for the support God, parents, siblings, relatives, friends and childhood neighbors have given me throughout my life. From young on, they taught me to look beyond surface impressions of people and how to adapt myself to people, places and things. The School Sisters of Notre Dame guided and expanded my knowledge and spirituality. They gave me the passion for teaching which has never diminished. God was my constant companion throughout all the experiences that SSND gave me. I cherish the memories of all the sisters and places of ministry as well as the various programs I was able to participate in – renewal in Rome with a side trip to Poland; Global Awareness Program in Honduras; spirituality of our SSND mission/non-governmental organization at the United Nations; and Global Connections at Standing Rock Reservation in Fort Yates, North Dakota. All these marvelous opportunities gave me a way of looking at the world from different viewpoints. The world can be transformed through education. I pray that God will continue to grant me the health to do his work here on earth.

The wisdom I would like to share is...

- Let God's love for you and the love of those around you be your greatest treasures.
- Be aware of the unity of mind and body because they are needed for harmony in daily living.
- Draw yourself closer to Christ no matter what you do.
- Cherish laughter, affection, forgiveness and the use of your imagination.

I was taught by the SSNDs at St. Mary Czestochowa School, Messmer High and Mount Mary. The sisters' love, concern and service to others inspired me to be like them. After high school graduation, I entered the SSND candidature. That was the best decision I ever made in my life.



School Sisters
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