

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 13, 1954

JUBILEE WISDOM

...all creation is united in one expression of God's love.

-Sylvia Hecht, SSND

-formerly S. Lillian



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Sylvia Hecht, SSND

60 Years

Sister Sylvia has served as an educator in various settings during her 60 years of ministry. She was a classroom teacher for 36 years, serving the following Wisconsin schools: St. Stephen, Stevens Point and St. Jerome, Columbus and in Milwaukee at St. Elizabeth, Harambee Community School and St. Anne. She responded to the needs of women at the Shade Tree ministry in Milwaukee for 12 years. She was called to congregational service at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Convent in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. In 2009, she began serving as co-director of the Rising Stars Volunteer Tutors in Milwaukee, which helps at-risk students improve their reading and math skills. She became the director in 2011. Sister Sylvia earned a bachelor's degree in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. Additionally, she earned Wisconsin state certification as a learning disabilities teacher and took graduate studies in pastoral theology with the Institute for Black Catholic Studies at Xavier University of Louisiana. Recently retired, she continues to serve through her prayer and presence.

A blessing I want to share is a multicolored bouquet of gratitude to God for 60 years of fidelity as a School Sister of Notre Dame. I am able to celebrate this Jubilee year only because of divine providence and God's graces that have come to me through others. Being a community member has made me a better person, so to my sisters in community I am grateful. You have filled me with the transforming power of love and given me the grace and opportunity to serve where there are urgent needs.

Two quotes have grounded my response to life. In our Constitution, *You Are Sent*, we are called to, "... direct our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent." In Martin Luther King's, *Christmas Sermon on Peace*, he called us to live as if ... "all of life is interrelated. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Over the years I have endeavored to grow in that oneness and to live more deeply from the knowledge that all creation is united in one expression of God's love. I pray to live in unity ever more deeply and ask forgiveness for my failures in this regard. Thanks be to God!

The wisdom gift I appreciate more deeply at this time of my life is the unity of all creation. Therefore, the call in our way of life document *You Are Sent* "to direct our entire lives toward that oneness for which Jesus Christ was sent" keeps the fire for mission burning in my heart. Daily I am missioned by Christ to make his presence of unity visible by my very being, by sharing love, faith and hope.