

# 2014 Jubilee



First Profession  
August 2, 1954

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*I have truly grown in wisdom and grace because of my presence in the SSND community.*

**-Valeria Beuke, SSND**

*-formerly S. Rose Martin*



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

## Valeria Beuke, SSND

60 Years

**Sister Valeria** served as a teacher – in primary and high schools, religious education and adult education – for 45 years in Jefferson City, Missouri; Cape Girardeau, Missouri, Herrin, Illinois; Carmi, Illinois; Freeburg, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Bogalusa, Louisiana; and Sells, Arizona. She served as principal in Pico Rivera, California, and Freeburg, Illinois. She was the coordinator of Migrant Whole Health Outreach in Kennett, Missouri; donor relations coordinator for the province mission advancement office in St. Louis; and a volunteer for the former Notre Dame Preschool. She continues to serve in various community service roles. She received her bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in English from California State University-Long Beach and a master's in theology from St. Mary's University in Texas.

**“My heart and my soul ring out their joy to the living God.” -Ps 84**

I echo the psalmist's words as I celebrate my diamond jubilee as a School Sister of Notre Dame. Actually, my praise, gratitude and joy stretch back to my childhood where I was rooted in a loving family, a school and parish that nourished me and developed my attraction to religious life.

**As a religious, I have been generously graced** with loving companions, countless opportunities to grow educationally, spiritually and emotionally. I have truly grown in wisdom and grace because of my presence in the SSND community. Companion sisters were my guides, support and faithful friends. Many taught me with their words of wisdom, others influenced me by their example. Some challenged me to greater depths by their broader insights. Always I was stimulated by their presence and good will.

**Broad educational opportunities** provided me with the tools I needed for my teaching ministry. Often, however, the training came on the job. My services varied from preschool, elementary teacher and principal, high school teacher of religion and English, and employee of the federal government in Bureau of Indian Affairs Schools on the Tohono O'odham Reservation in Southern Arizona. The 24 years I lived and taught on the reservation were the most meaningful of my life. I was absorbed into a warm and spiritual culture that taught me generosity, humility, patience, beauty, trust and reverence for desert surroundings.

**Now that I have left the busy-ness of active ministry behind,** I am enjoying the semi-retirement of living with aging sisters and volunteering for the jobs adherent to institutional living. As my companion sisters and I advance in years, I am heartened by Blessed Theresa's reminder: “God has helped us wondrously until now; neither will we be abandoned in the future.” -*Trust and Dare*, Letter 5032