

2014 Jubilee



First Profession
July 22, 1944

JUBILEE WISDOM

*God in his wisdom and mercy
can and will direct all
for our best. Trust him.*

-Thelma Vetsch, SSND

-formerly S. Mary LeRoy

Thelma Vetsch, SSND

70 Years

Sister Thelma was first called by God to teach intermediate and junior high students in North Dakota, Iowa, Washington, and Minnesota. In 1959 she began a 14-year stint as a teacher/administrator in four different schools. After a semester of spiritual renewal in 1981, Sister Thelma did some teaching plus work as a school librarian. With a move to Holy Childhood in St. Paul in 1985 she began a ministry to the elderly that extended through the next 26 years. This joy-filled work gradually evolved into retirement of prayer and presence. In 2011, Sister Thelma moved to Good Counsel where she helps wherever she can and is also part-time librarian in the Learning Center at Good Counsel.

After profession in 1944, I was sent to small schools where I lived with just three or four other sisters. This was a blessing because I learned community living in praying and working together – a lifetime of many happy memories. My “forever” at final vows in 1950 still is a beautiful memory. Silver Jubilee and a trip to St. Louis with classmates was another happy adventure. Always, God’s loving hands held me and supported me especially when times were difficult. I know God heard my prayers as I put my trust in him. Golden Jubilee in 1994 and the trip to Rome are a cherished memory. Our retreat given by Sister Mary Margaret was so very special. *You Are Sent*, our constitution, became “alive.” I now love to read and meditate on the parts she explained so well.

The past 70 years as an SSND had its challenges and its beautiful, spiritually up-lifting times. Of my 14 classmates, five are left on earth to celebrate 70 years of consecrated life. I feel we are celebrating with the others who really know how to celebrate with Jesus Christ, in his home in heaven. May he continue to bless all of us.