

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 31, 1965

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Always start the day in the presence of God."*

- Claret Feldhake  
SSND

## Claret Feldhake, SSND

50 Years

*Sister Claret served for 25 years as a high school teacher in the cities of St. Louis, Missouri; Fort Madison, Iowa; and Quincy, Illinois. In 1993, she began a missionary assignment teaching in Sierra Leone's Kabala Secondary School. By the time she returned from Africa in 2005, she had served in five different secondary schools across Sierra Leone and Kenya. From 1996-1997 she also served the congregation in the SSND formation house. From 2006-2011, she ministered as director of SSND's Veronica House retirement residence in St. Louis. Currently, she continues active ministry as an elementary school art teacher in the Missouri towns of Westphalia, Frankenstein, and Linn, all in the Jefferson City diocese. She received a bachelor's in art from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis.*

### A blessing of these years I want to share is ...

Through the community, God has called me out of my comfort zone to minister to God's people in cultures other than my own. This has stretched me, opened my eyes and heart, and drawn me to a greater dependency on God's presence in my life.

### The words of wisdom I would like to share ...

Always start the day in the presence of God, even if that means rising earlier. Never compromise that time with your God. Throughout the day, take a moment to remember that God's grace is always there to help you. It doesn't mean it will always be easy, but God will give you the strength you need.

### What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

Without a doubt, my time with the people of Sierra Leone and Kenya was the most meaningful time in my ministry. It created a deeper and fuller understanding of the importance of being present to another human being and seeing the beauty of God within that person.

### What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I was drawn to the School Sisters of Notre Dame through what I saw and experienced during my grade and high school years, when I was taught by the SSNDs. I also had an aunt who was an SSND. They were all very dedicated, caring teachers who appeared to love their vocation — their call to love God by serving God's people.