

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 31, 1965

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Our God is a God  
of surprises."*

- Elleen Marie Beelman  
SSND

## Elleen Marie Beelman, SSND

50 Years

*Sister Elleen Marie's first ministerial role was as secretary at the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. Beginning in 1970, she spent 12 years in teaching elementary and middle school students in Loose Creek, Missouri; Highland, Illinois; and St. Louis. In 1982, she moved to Jackson, Missouri, to serve in elementary school administration, returning to St. Louis in 1984 to serve on the congregational staff. Beginning in 1990, she served at the Generalate in Rome, Italy. Returning to St. Louis in 1997, she served 11 years in administration at the Catholic Education Office. Since 2008, Sister Elleen has served as executive assistant to the provincial at the Sancta Maria in Ripa campus in St. Louis. She received her bachelor's in American studies from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in elementary education from the University of Missouri-Columbia.*

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

The blessing of community has been a sustaining grace during my years of religious. Some experiences were definitely more challenging, but all were grace-filled.

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

I try to be attuned and open to how God's presence is being revealed in my life through persons and events. Our God is a God of surprises.

### An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

All of my ministries have been grace-filled, challenging, and always calling me to grow. During my six years of ministry at the Generalate in Rome, I had the occasion to visit most of our European provinces. For me this was a tremendous opportunity and helped me break open the reality of our internationality as School Sisters of Notre Dame. Walking in the shoes of those from a different culture, even for a short period of time, was a grace and a blessing of my years of ministry. Along the way, I had the privilege of meeting and getting to know many wonderful Sisters and partners in mission.

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

I was always impressed by the Sisters as I was growing up. They were prayerful, happy, enjoyed what they did and cared for us and for each other. I worked for some time before entering and when I felt the call from God, I knew I wanted to be a part of something bigger than myself. In spite of strong opposition, I entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame and have felt very blessed throughout my years as an SSND.