

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 29, 1965

JUBILEE WISDOM

"We could holler, scream, do what we wanted, but waiting until they opened their eyes was what needed to happen."

**- Jean-Marie Smith
SSND**

Jean-Marie Smith, SSND

50 Years

Sister Jean-Marie's teaching assignments took her to five different schools during her first decade of ministry. Beginning in Crowley, Louisiana, she moved to Mobile, Alabama, then onto Gainesville, Texas and finally to Baton Rouge. Between 1979-1991, she served in parish ministry and religious education in the Texas towns of Odessa, Rio Grande and Brownsville. Following a year of teaching in Louisiana's diocese of Alexandria, she returned to Dickinson, Texas, where she was on staff at the Christian Renewal Center through 1995. She returned to teaching for the next decade, ministering to Dallas youth with special needs. From 2005-2010 she worked in pastoral and congregational roles in Laredo and Chatawa, Mississippi, then moved to Chicago to serve the SSND postulants for two years. Since 2012 she has assisted as a teacher's aide at the Notre Dame Special School in Dallas. She received her bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Dallas; a master's in elementary education from the University of South Alabama in Mobile; and a master's in religious studies from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas.

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

The thing that has proven to be a special blessing in my life is the opportunity for enrichment: my various studies about spirituality; my 30-day retreat at Lebh Shomea Retreat Center in Texas, where I studied the spirituality of Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross; my sabbatical at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi; and my Spiritual Directors-Summer Institute at the Mercy Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

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

"The day will come when, after harnessing the winds, the tides, globalization, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire." – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

Chinchuba Institute for the Deaf in Marrero, Louisiana, was my most interesting and meaningful experience. This was my first mission experience and I was teaching a fourth grade class. The most interesting aspect was learning how to teach deaf students how to speak with as much normalcy as possible. Whenever they got into trouble, they just closed their eyes. We could holler, scream, do what we wanted, but waiting until they opened their eyes was what needed to happen. It was a boarding school because students were, for the most part, living outside of the city. We did duty during meals, helped with homework, brushing of hair and teeth, making sure they took baths, etc. On Friday after school they went home.



**School Sisters
of Notre Dame**
Central Pacific Province