

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1965

JUBILEE WISDOM

"Take time to reflect on (all) people and experiences that cross your path, and be open to the possibility of God becoming a closer part of you."

**- Marilyn Orchard
SSND**

- formerly S. Paul Marie



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

Marilyn Orchard, SSND

50 Years

Sister Marilyn served as a Catholic grade school teacher in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area for the first 12 years of her ministry. Beginning in 1979 through 1985, she served in the Minnesota towns of Wells and Waite Park, as a school administrator and parish director of religious education, respectively. She returned to St. Paul, where she served for eight years as facility administrator at the Theresa Living Center homeless shelter for women. Following a yearlong sabbatical in Cambridge, Massachusetts, she directed the refugee resettlement program at Catholic Charities' Rochester location in Minnesota. Answering a call to leadership, she moved to Mankato in 2003 and there began a six-year term as a provincial councilor. Following two years as a retreat/spiritual director at St. Paul's SSND Residence, she has continued her current ministry of spiritual direction, prayer and presence in West St. Paul. She received her bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in education from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota.

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

The opportunity to minister in many and varied situations that I would not have been able to even dream of, had I not been an SSND. Besides teaching in regular grade schools, I was able to work with parish religious education programs, work with low-income women and children getting on their feet through transitional housing, work with refugees in the Diocese of Winona and now work with spiritual direction. I've met wonderful people, formed friendships, and have been enriched through all of them.

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

I believe that every location and ministry situation I've been part of so far has been another chance to grow as a person. When I took the time to reflect on the people, events, and experiences that were part of my life, I did learn from them — whether the form happened to be a blessing or challenge. I encourage anyone to take time to reflect on those people and experiences that cross your path, and be open to the possibility of God becoming a closer part of you and yourself becoming a better person through it all. It's worth it!

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

My years of working as director of refugee resettlement I still consider my Camelot ministry. There was such a richness in getting to know the people who came here from so many different countries and continents with their unique customs, foods, beliefs, and languages. I watched parents learn English, settle into jobs, admired their kids going from struggling to excelling in school, move into better apartments, and eventually buy their own homes. Their dogged determination was really admirable. And I'll forever cherish the relationships that grew from it.