

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
June 27, 1965

JUBILEE WISDOM

“Among the greatest gifts has been ministering with those who are on the margins ... and joining others ... to improve lives, one at a time.”

- Mary Anne Owens
SSND

Mary Anne Owens, SSND

50 Years

Sister Mary Anne originally professed her religious vows with the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scranton, Pennsylvania. From 1973 through 1978, she served in elementary school administration in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. During that time, she transferred to the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Dallas. Beginning in 1978, she served as diocesan program director in Lafayette, Louisiana. Returning to Dallas in 1985, Sister Mary Anne held a leadership role as provincial councilor for eight years in the former Dallas Province. She then served several social service agencies in Dallas and Rockville Center, New York. That era culminated with her position as executive director of Catholic Charities of Dallas from 1998 until June of 2011, when she was elected provincial leader of SSND's newly formed Central Pacific Province, a post she currently holds. She received her bachelor's in education and social studies from Marywood College in Scranton and a master's in geography from Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

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

The amazing gifts the life of a religious offers to the person and the world. God is generous in being patient with us and is always faithful. Among the greatest gifts has been ministering with those who are on the margins of our Church and/or society and joining others in collaborative efforts to improve lives, one at a time.

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

It is a gift of living long enough to know how much we all are loved by God and sharing this incredible journey on our earth. We come to appreciate our community life and relationships of all the years and reflect on what we have learned from them.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

This is difficult because all my places of ministry have been wonderful and meaningful! My time at Catholic Charities enabled me to learn from so many other cultures and religious groups the beauty of our common search for God. It also gave me an opportunity to work with others to create programs that impacted the lives of others in significant ways.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I was drawn to the SSNDs the first time I read *You Are Sent* and shared with other sisters the depth and possibilities of the Constitution if lived well. I was also drawn to the South because of the ministry and Church needs in a part of the country that was so different from where I was raised and had so few religious. It truly changed my life!