

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 28, 1965

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*“Over the years I have learned that I will be given the graces I need, no matter how difficult the situation is.”*

- Mary Joseph Ann Quinene  
SSND

## Mary Joseph Ann Quinene, SSND

50 Years

*Sister Mary Joseph Ann has devoted the majority of her ministry to service in the Agana Guam diocese on the western Pacific island. Her first SSND assignment was teaching elementary school in Agat, from 1966-1970. Following two years as a teacher in Yona, she completed her degree and returned to Agat, teaching at Mount Carmel School through 1981. She served a three-year administrative post at St. Francis School in Yona and one year's formation training in St. Louis, Missouri. She then returned to Guam, serving as formation director at the Notre Dame Regional House in Talofofo. During this era she also continued to teach part-time throughout the nearby villages. Beginning in 1995, she served a three-year term as treasurer for the SSND community, followed by eight years as a regional councilor in Talofofo. She completed a two-year sabbatical in the U.S. and since 2007 has served as principal of San Vicente School in Barrigada. She received a bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Guam, located in the village of Mangilao.*

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

A profound sense of gratitude to everyone and everything that helped me deepen my spirituality and appreciation of God's infinite goodness — my family, religious community and friends. I daily thank God for the gift of life ... and most of all for the greatest gift imaginable, the gift of his only Son, the Lord Jesus. When I first entered the convent, I had no idea just how rich my experiences would be, and what surprises! I thank God every day for sustaining me, especially through difficult times in my life, and for choosing me to help mold young people along his path.

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

Remain open and accept the invitations of the daily challenges of community and ministry! Over the years I have learned that I will be given the graces I need. This is reinforced for me in Psalm 138:3: “On the day that I called, You answered me; the strength of my soul You increased,” and in Matthew 19:26: “... for human beings, this is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.”

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

When I was called and elected to community leadership. My first reaction was, “God, You sure have a good sense of humor!” Why? There were other more qualified Sisters! But, as stated earlier, “with God, all things are possible,” and all I needed was to depend on God's graces!

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

When my parents enrolled me in the Catholic School as an 8th grader. This was where I first felt the SSND spirit of kind-heartedness and dedicated service. The hard-working sisters were always available ... staying after school to assist students who were struggling or waiting for their parents to pick them up. Through the eyes of a young girl, I sensed the love and respect given them. I was drawn to emulate these religious individuals who eventually led me to now, celebrating 50 years of God's call, fidelity and grace.



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province