

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1965

JUBILEE WISDOM

"My sisters have often challenged me to 'the more' in the service of God's people."

- Mary Kay Gosch
SSND

- formerly S. Marie Patrice



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Mary Kay Gosch, SSND

50 Years

Sister Mary Kay devoted the first years of her ministry to teaching, beginning in the Minnesota town of Buffalo and moving in 1968 to Loyola High School in Mankato. In 1974, she began a 13-year ministry in the area of personal and spiritual development at the Center for Spiritual Development in Bird Island, Minnesota. From 1987-1995, she served as a provincial councilor for the former Mankato Province. Following her leadership role and another two years of ministry of the area of spirituality, she began work in formation as novice director at SSND's West African novitiate in Sunyani, Ghana, a post she held through 2009. Since 2011, she has served as campus director at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Mankato and also ministers in the area of spirituality. She holds a bachelor's in French from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in religious studies from Mundelein College in Chicago.

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

For me the blessings of this life are countless. The gift of community and the call of the community have been constants in my life. Being about the mission with other dedicated, caring, committed, wonderful women has enabled me to use gifts that I never knew I had. My sisters have supported, invited and often challenged me to "the more" in service to God's people, our church and the world. For all I am grateful.

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

Most often what we can do together is far more than what one can do alone. We need all of us.

What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

My living and ministering with others in Africa has been a life-changing experience. Having the opportunity to serve in Africa as a co-novice director will always stand out as a privileged time for me. I lived in a multi-cultural and multi-national community and journeyed with young African women who were joining our congregation. Their enthusiastic idealism both inspired and challenged me in my own commitment. Encountering God on another continent, through people with rich cultural and religious traditions different from my own, was a profound experience of the Sacred.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

When I was a small child, I lived near our parish convent and often had the chance to run errands for the sisters. I was also taught by the SSNDs during grade school. In hindsight I think I was most touched and attracted by the joy, aliveness and selfless dedication of the sisters who taught me. I was drawn to and wanted to share in that life, and — with others — to be about the mission of the Gospel.