

Jubilee 2015



First Profession
July 31, 1965

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Everyone has a piece
of the truth."*

- Mary Ruth Wand
SSND

-formerly S. Josephus

Mary Ruth Wand, SSND

50 Years

Sister Mary Ruth's first decade of ministry as a teacher took her to Knoxville, Iowa; Jefferson City and Linn, Missouri; and finally to St. Louis, where she taught middle grade school students from 1971-1976. She followed her calling to Loose Creek, Missouri, teaching at Immaculate Conception for the next eight years. Following several years in teaching and administration in Lawrence, Nebraska, she returned to Missouri. From the late 1980s through the eve of the new millennium, she ministered in elementary education and administration in the towns of Hannibal, Marceline and Martinsburg, all in the Jefferson City diocese. Since 1999, she has worked as a pastoral minister at Annunciation Parish in California, Missouri. She earned a bachelor's in music theory from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in elementary administration from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa.

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

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ..." God is never outdone in generosity and constantly offers opportunities to nourish and be nourished through my relationships with God's people. "Act with justice, love tenderly, serve one another, and walk humbly with God ..." Growth in wisdom, age, and grace has come through challenges and successes.

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

"Be still and know that I am God ..." God is in everything and good will come out of every situation, whether we see it or not.

"All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain; but then, their roots are all the sturdier and their flowering the lovelier."

Just as a tree grows, the deeper the roots, the more freedom the tree has to be flexible in the breeze and weather; so in life, the more rooted in God, the easier to be more adaptable and open to God's will.

Presume the good will of the other ...

Even in difficult circumstances, I believe people mean well and act out of their own history, vision, and understanding of the situation. Everyone has a piece of the truth. Prayer helps put the puzzle together.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

I have experienced blessings in every mission, every ministry — leadership skills development, opportunities for compassion/empathy, spiritual growth and maturity through my ministry to God's people. I am grateful for the gift of our international SSND community as well as our provincial connectedness, all of which provides a basis for bringing world vision to the people we serve.