

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 29, 1965

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Fully rely on God."*

**- Nancy McNemar  
SSND**

*- formerly S. Mary Magdalen*



## Nancy McNemar, SSND

*50 Years*

**S**ister Nancy spent her first two years in ministry as a teacher in Corpus Christi, Texas. In 1969, she accepted a call to parish ministry in Arizona, where she worked in the towns of Coolidge and Florence through 1977. She served three years as a staff member at the former Dallas motherhouse in Irving, Texas, followed by a four-year pastoral ministry assignment in Duncanville, Texas. From 1984-1996, she served as a program director in the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi. She moved to Thibodaux, Louisiana in 1997 to begin a five-year post as a pastoral associate at St. Luke Catholic Church. In the years since, she has volunteered and served as a staff member at St. Mary of the Pines in Chatawa, Mississippi. Since 2012 she has also volunteered at St. Andrew's Thrift Store in McComb. She received a bachelor's in elementary education from the University of Dallas; and a master's in religious studies from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas.

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

I was in the first class in the former Dallas Province. We were called the pioneers. We lived in Ft. Worth and commuted to the University of Dallas each day until we moved to the Irving motherhouse.

Summer, 1968, along with another religious, we developed a comprehensive religious education program for children and adults in Corpus Christi, Texas. Having completed the year, I was asked to make a choice between parochial school teaching or religious education. I chose the latter. In 1969 I was missioned to be "trained" to give religious education programs.

In 1984, I was hired by the Diocese of Jackson, Mississippi, which covered 39,000 square miles with 75 parishes and 30 missions. I worked with and educated pastors, RENEW participants and their leaders, directed parish and diocesan pastoral planning. I was the first woman department head and worked with facilitating systemic change regarding women, Church and racial issues.

I worked with the initial team developing "Mission Mississippi," now in its 21st year working to improve racial and denominational reconciliation — one relationship at a time.

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

"Be not afraid."

"I am with you always."

FROG - Fully Rely On God.

### **An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...**

In 1983, along with parishioners, I planned for a dinner and a liturgy to celebrate being in SSND for 20 years. Mother Georgianne Segner gave the homily and all SSNDs gathered to renew their vows with me.