

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 28, 1965

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"God puts us where we can  
share our gifts to the fullest."*

- Phyllis Marie Grzeczka  
SSND

- formerly S. Marie Stefan

## Phyllis Marie Grzeczka, SSND

50 Years

*Sister Phyllis Marie began her ministry as a musician and teacher, serving 12 years in the Indiana towns of Huntington and Gary. In 1978, she returned to her hometown in Michigan, continuing her ministries in the communities of Grand Rapids, Bad Axe and Bay City. From 1985-1998, she served as a parish liturgist in the Wisconsin towns of Little Chute, Clintonville, Green Bay and Lake Geneva. She was called to Christ King Parish in South Bend, Indiana, where she ministered through 2005. She was elected to a six-year term as provincial councilor, serving in Elm Grove. Currently Sister Phyllis Marie serves as liturgist and parish musician at Siena Center on the Lake in Racine, Wisconsin. She holds a bachelor's in music education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in religious education from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan.*

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

I found that each call had its own blessing and challenge. My early years as music educator gave me the opportunity to work with all ages from K-12. Being part of the Vatican II changes was exciting, with all the renewal it brought to the local church, and especially to religious life. Having worked in several states and six different dioceses, I am grateful for all the people who have been part of my faith journey.

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

"The heart sees deeper than the eye." I found this on a tea bag one morning, and realized from life experience how true this is. My other words of wisdom would be to always have a chuckle for the day and hugs to share!! :)

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

My years as music director at Christ the King parish in South Bend, Indiana (1998-2005) were especially meaningful. Being the only SSND, I was able to witness our mission of proclaiming the good news wherever we are called and sent.

The most meaningful time for me was the six years of leadership for the former Milwaukee Province from 2005-2011. I was part of a team of five hope-filled, creative and sensitive women willing to move forward into the unknown and make difficult decisions. With Mother Theresa and Caroline we realized "All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain; but then, their roots are the sturdier and their flowering the lovelier."

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

I was taught by the SSNDs at St. Isidore in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I found the sisters were joy-filled and great teachers. God puts us where we can share our gifts to the fullest.