

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Many years later, I realized
God was leading me ...
'Thy will be done.'"*

- Anne Boessen
SSND

- formerly S. Aquina



Anne Boessen, SSND

60 Years

Sister Anne's first 15 years of ministry as a high school teacher took her to the cities of New Orleans; St. Louis; Belleville, Illinois; Washington, Missouri and Burlington, Iowa. Beginning in 1972, she began a 14-year ministry in the Belleville diocese, working four years at St. Henry School and Preparatory Seminary, followed by a decade as a diocesan program director in respect life ministries. In 1987, following a recuperative period in St. Louis, she answered a call to pastoral ministry in the Missouri town of California, a post she held for nine years. She moved to St. Thomas, Missouri, where she continued serving four additional years in parish ministry. Since 2001, she has accepted various volunteer roles across Jefferson City, Missouri, including at the Osage Senior Center. She earned a bachelor's in natural science from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in science education from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota.

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

God has a plan for each of us. I am so grateful for all that SSND has done ... spiritual opportunities: retreats, workshops, Jubilee experiences in Rome and Bavaria, reflection days, community gatherings ... education: college, graduate, post-graduate ... health care: especially the support and care I received when I had cancer two times ... always present to take care of our needs ...

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

"Thy will be done." From the night of my first profession (I realized many years later), God was leading me to what he wanted me to do. When obediences were handed out, I was asked to continue my college education instead of going on mission. In the novitiate I had requested to work in an orphanage or teach Latin. Instead, I was asked to teach high school math and science. Later, the bishop of Belleville, Illinois, asked me to start a pro-life and natural family planning program. Through my knowledge of biology, I was able to respond, giving workshops in six Illinois dioceses and a number of other states.

What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

When I was asked by the local pro-life group to start a pregnancy care center in 1981, which is still helping women to decide to chose LIFE and assisting them with counseling and other necessities. I helped start Project Rachel in Belleville, establish a hot line and train volunteers in counseling women in need.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

From a small farm I came to know the SSNDs by taking them baskets of meat, fruit and veggies. Sometimes I got to accompany them to nearby convents as my dad was generous in giving them rides. I had excellent teachers and all nuns in grade and high school. Their joy and hard work inspired me to want to help others.