

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"I tried it and was grateful ...
for I stayed."*

- Carla Marie Candella
SSND

Carla Marie Candella, SSND

60 Years

Sister Carla Marie's decades of ministry were spent primarily as a high school teacher. Her first 12 years of service took her to St. Louis and the Louisiana towns of Marrero, Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Following a two-year assignment in Houston, she returned to Baton Rouge to teach at Redemptorist Senior High School through 1981. She taught in Springfield, Missouri from 1982-1986, when she turned her focus to caring for her parents until 1989. She returned to Natchitoches, Louisiana for one year, then accepted a position teaching at Baton Rouge's Bishop Sullivan High School, a ministry which lasted 14 years. For the next six years she volunteered in her parish at St. Gerard Majella in Baton Rouge. Since early 2012, she has served full-time on staff at St. Mary of the Pines retirement residence in Chatawa, Mississippi. She earned a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in education from the University of Houston-Clear Lake City, in Texas.

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

In my 60 years serving as a School Sister of Notre Dame, I feel one must be fond of what her ministry is. I enjoyed every subject I was privileged to teach and every place I was sent to teach.

What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

Everything I did in my teaching career. Upon retirement I was asked to work with the RCIA group in our parish. I never thought I could work well with adults, however, I learned that my years of teaching in the classroom and the respective subjects prepared for this work — God truly blessed me, and the candidates were extremely grateful for what they learned about the Catholic faith. It became a joy in this ministry.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I enjoyed the teacher who taught me catechism, and I wanted to imitate her. After some time, I decided it was time to consider a vocation and discussed this with my pastor. He suggested I enter religious life. I tried it and was grateful I tried, for I stayed.