

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

"What occurred in the late '50s and early '60s changed everything. I was in the right place at the right time."

**- Kara Ryan
SSND**

Kara Ryan, SSND

60 Years

Sister Kara's initial teaching assignments took her to Catholic high schools in New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana. From 1966-2011, she served as a college professor at three schools: the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, St. Louis University and the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Maryland. Since 2011, she has served in a variety of volunteer roles around Baltimore, Maryland, recently moving to SSND's Villa Assumpta motherhouse there. She holds a bachelor's in mathematics from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis; a master's in mathematics from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge; a master's in physics from Loyola University in New Orleans and a doctorate in mathematics from St. Louis University.

What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

I began my teaching career in New Orleans and took some introductory computer classes at Loyola University in New Orleans. The computer was just making its way into everyday life. The former St. Louis Province was interested in finding a way to get data into computer generated form; all province records were on paper. Since I had this course work the provincial asked that I return to St. Louis to devote time doing data entry each afternoon. I was to use the computer after work hours, at the Zielinski and Wolff offices in downtown St. Louis, and begin study at St. Louis University for a Ph.D. in math. The stars aligned!

Dr. Freese, chair of the math department at St. Louis University, was teaching two computer courses. He was very interested in developing a computer science department but had no one to teach additional courses. I taught courses and helped him develop the department while I was studying for my Ph.D. in math. When I completed my Ph.D., I was assigned to teach at Notre Dame College and brought this knowledge and experience to the Ripa campus. This was the beginning and there was no going back. What occurred in the late '50s and early '60s changed everything. I was in the right place at the right time. Now there's a laptop on my desk!

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame and Sisters of St. Joseph at Rosati-Kain High School in St. Louis. There was something special about the School Sisters of Notre Dame. I wanted to follow in their footsteps. They were such good teachers!



School Sisters
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