

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"I thought my life could not
get any better, but it did."*

- Linda Marie Hellebusch
SSND

Linda Marie Hellebusch, SSND

60 Years

Sister Linda Marie's first ministry began in 1955 in Marrero, Louisiana, where for five years she served as a housekeeper at Madonna Manor. From 1960-1974, she met many needs of her SSND community in St. Louis, first as a nurse's aide in the motherhouse infirmary, followed by roles in food service and as a health aide at the Villa Gesu retirement residence. She ministered to the disabled in Sunland, California, from 1974-1977 and again from 1984-1986 (serving on staff at the former St. Louis motherhouse in between). Following a three-year ministry on staff at Our Lady of Mercy School in Merced, California, she returned to St. Louis and served in various roles at child care centers through 2001. She ministered an additional two years as a nurse's aide and driver for the motherhouse community, and continued to accept the call for occasional needs as a night aide through 2009. Since 2012, she has ministered by prayer and presence at the Theresa Center in St. Louis.

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

My openness to recognize and acknowledge all people as God's creation, and to share my joy and happiness by greeting people with a hello and a smile. I often enjoy a brief conversation with them. Many ask me to pray for a special intention as I wish them a good day.

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

Be grateful to God for the ability and the gift to trust others. I trust the sisters who call me to various ministries. I also trust the sisters I lived with, and through the grace of God I am grateful for all the people that touched my life.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

Was when I worked at the school for the handicapped in Sunland, California. I thought that it was wonderful. I thought my life could not get any better, but it did. I was asked to work at a day care center taking care of six-week old babies in St. Louis. I again felt wonderful and was happy to give little children a good start in life. I always remembered in my prayers all those I took care of, and continue to do this even now.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I was taught by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Concord Hill. They were a big part of my life. After school, I did the washing along with some other small chores for the sisters. One day when Mother Evangela Wagner was on visitation there, she asked me if I wanted to come to the convent. My parents gave me permission to enter the community. Upon entering, my father took me and Sister Joan T. to the train station in Washington, Missouri, where we departed for St. Louis. Sister Joan's nephew picked us up and took us to the motherhouse. I feel it was the joy of the sisters at Concord Hill — especially the smile on the face of my first grade school teacher and her joy and laughter — that drew me to say yes to the invitation.