

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Gratitude can keep one
healthy and happy."*

- M. Carmelle Malerich
SSND



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

M. Carmelle Malerich, SSND

60 Years

Sister Carmelle's early years as an elementary and high school music teacher took her to the North Dakota cities of Dickinson, Bismarck, Raleigh and New England and the Minnesota towns of Madelia, Canby, St. Paul and Mankato. Between 1976-1979, she taught in Mankato while serving the SSND community as liturgist. Continuing her ministry in Minnesota, she dedicated the next 14 years as a parish liturgist and musician, beginning at St. Joseph in Red Wing and ending at All Saints in Lakeville. From 1992-2012, she lived and worked in the Wytheville-Bland and Bastian communities of Virginia, serving numerous schools and agencies as a literacy director, adult education specialist, housing director and social worker. From 2007-2012 she also served St. Mary's Parish in music ministry. Since that time, she has ministered in prayer and as a volunteer in Jordan, Minnesota. She received a bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee; a master's in music education from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota; and a master's in social work from Radford University in Radford, Virginia.

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

Special blessings are to know more and more how God loves us all: to be a part of the whole — a whole group of SSNDs all focusing on God's mission; to have the mutual support and friendship of many great people; to have all the opportunities we have for learning how our faith/theology is evolving, how earth, universe and cosmos are all interdependent.

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

Over the years, life in SSND helps me to find gratitude in everything. Gratitude can keep one healthy and happy and give one the ability to see the positive. Letting go, when needed, is a gift from gratitude.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

All of it was a special time, the harder and easier. My 20 years in Central Appalachia gave me a new perspective on life, death, poverty, wealth, letting go, building up, accepting, changing. Every place gave me a gift to learn, be among and love the poor, affluent, all ages — everyone. What came of it is a gift of gratitude.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

God's call came through my family first, unknown to me. They never said much about religious life, but when I asked to enter, their example and encouragement were great blessings. I attended SSND schools from 5th through 12th grades. A very arthritic sister on crutches taught our large class in 7th grade. She never raised her voice. In high school, another SSND taught me music and took a special interest in me. It felt good and got me thinking. I gave in to "The Hound of Heaven" the very last days of my senior year.