

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Don't start with the broom
or dish cloth. Sit down, visit,
see how life is going for them.
Then work."*

- M. Jonelle Rein
SSND

M. Jonelle Rein, SSND

60 Years

Sister Jonelle's first 24 years in ministry took her to eight schools across five Minnesota dioceses. From her initial assignment in Shakopee, she went to North Mankato, Heron Lake, Wanda, Lonsdale (twice), South St. Paul, Sartell and Morgan. In 1981, she began a year of volunteer service at Mankato's Good Counsel Convent, then returned to the classroom, serving five years as a kindergarten teacher at St. Isidore in Litomysl, also in Minnesota. She helped care for her aging parents for three years. She served as a child care worker from 1990-1994 in St. Paul. From 1994-2007, she worked in elder ministry, visiting the sick and infirm for Sisters Care in St. Paul. Since then, she has served as a part-time caregiver while residing at the SSND residence. She received a bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in reading education from Cardinal Stritch University, also in Milwaukee.

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

I have been so blessed with the wonderful gift of sisters I have known and lived with these past 60 years, through community, education, retreats and vacations. What wonderful memories also come to mind of my first airplane trip to spend a summer in Rome, for our Renewal Program, to experience a Mass by the Pope and to visit Rome's many churches.

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

I was born into a family of eight boys and four girls ... this was a good beginning of community and "wisdom ways." My wisdom words: Kind words, gentle ways. Be helpful. Be thankful. Pray. Make jokes, or laugh at them.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

When teaching. I'd keep things fun and interesting — they didn't realize they were learning. Now, working with elderly in their homes or apartments, my motto is ... Don't start with the broom or dish cloth. Sit down, visit, see how life is going for them. Then work.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I was taught by SSNDs from 1st through 6th grade in Searles and Madelia in Minnesota, and four years high school at Good Counsel Hill in Mankato. I loved them; I worked for them.