

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"I see the face of God in each
of the children I have taught."*

- Marie Esther Becker
SSND

Marie Esther Becker, SSND

60 Years

Sister Marie Esther spent her first decade in ministry teaching at Holy Family School in Freeburg, Missouri. In 1965, she began a seven-year teaching assignment in Cairo, Illinois, followed by two posts in St. Louis. She taught 1st grade at Our Lady of Loretto School and a variety of grades at St. Gabriel the Archangel through 1984. From that year through 2012, she served at St. Peter Grade School and Parish in Jefferson City, Missouri, teaching in the classroom for 25 years, followed by several years in pastoral assistance and, finally, three years as a remedial reading/special education teacher. Since 2012, she has resided as a volunteer and prayer witness at the Theresa Center in St. Louis. She received her bachelor's in elementary education from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis.

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

The love for Jesus and his Father that the Holy Spirit breathed in me during these last 60 years as I served the children and loved them as their teacher ... I was blessed to meet those from another culture and to teach art, religion, reading, social studies and philosophy for children ...

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

Being aware of and waiting to live the next graced experience. The gift of wisdom of Jubilee is waiting, listening and living each moment, learning of God's love. My praise and gratitude goes to God for the love and support from my family, the SSND community and all my friends.

What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

Our trip to Rome, Austria, Germany and France after teaching 35 years was an awesome wonder. Each new assignment and every new class was especially meaningful.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

My desire to live in love with God, work for him, with the help of the Holy Spirit. My mom died when I was six. I grew to have a yearning to help children. I did not care for school, so teaching out of books did not appeal to me, but teaching about life with others did. Sister Leander Schwieterman told me about a boys' orphanage in New Orleans ... it appealed to me to give my life to God by being a mom to these boys. After my junior year I entered as a candidate. The sisters wanted to try me at teaching ... I never saw the orphanage, but, I learned to teach from the sisters I lived with ... and I love opening the minds of children to see. I see the face of God in each of them.



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province