

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"It is the little,
everyday ordinary things
that give me joy ...
touched with a bit
of heaven."*

**- Mary Elizabeth Runde
SSND**

- formerly S. Marie Pius



Mary Elizabeth Runde, SSND

60 Years

Sister Mary Elizabeth's first two decades as a teacher were spent primarily in St. Louis, with short assignments in East St. Louis, Illinois, and Krakow, Missouri. From 1975-1982, she served her final teaching assignment in Hazelwood, Missouri. Moving to southwest Missouri, she turned to pastoral ministry and religious education, serving in the towns of Advance and Kahoka through 1988. Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, she served as an LPN in Effingham, Illinois, while also taking time to care for her parents in Teutopolis. From 2006-2011, she worked in pastoral care at St. Anthony Hospital in Effingham. Since that time, she has served as a volunteer in Kennett, Missouri. She received a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in religious education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. She also earned certification in licensed practical nursing from Lake Land College in Mattoon, Illinois.

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

At First Profession we sang the words: "Receive me as you have promised, that I may live; disappoint me not in my hope." It is to this faithful God that I am grateful. I sang these words not alone, but in community with all the sisters who have gone before, those today throughout our international community, and those yet to come. During these 60 years I have been blessed to have lived in community with many of our sisters. I cherish the memories of who they were and are today, as we shared and continue to share our lives. How we responded to the many challenges of daily living continues to be a source for many stories and laughter. Again, I am grateful.

Over the years I have been blessed and privileged to be a part of so many children's lives. I am also blessed by the many people I walked with in their sufferings and joys as I ministered in the health care setting.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

Experiencing the joy and spontaneity of the children is an ongoing experience that I treasure and thank God for every day. It is the little, everyday ordinary things that give me joy — like the little second grade boy who walked in our classroom one cold winter morning, stopped dead still, smiled and said, "I like oatmeal!" His joy was contagious and I was touched with a bit of heaven.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

The sisters in my home town, Teutopolis, Illinois, shared their holiness/goodness with joy and laughter. They were genuine and to all appearances free to be who they were.