

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 12, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"It was God leading
me all the way."*

- Mary Ellen Jean Klein
SSND

Mary Ellen Jean Klein, SSND

60 Years

Sister Ellen Jean completed her first teaching assignments in Milwaukee and Kenosha, Wisconsin. She then moved to Guam and taught in Agat from 1962-1966. Following a yearlong assignment back in Elm Grove, she returned to Guam as an educational consultant in Agana, serving from 1967-1976. She remained on the island as diocesan superintendent for four additional years, then returned to the Milwaukee area, teaching and studying in Mequon and serving at St. Hyacinth School. From 1983-2001, she served numerous Milwaukee schools as director of religious education, followed by several years' study, renewal and volunteer posts. She ministered at Havenwood Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Aurora Sinai Medical Center, and at Brookfield's Heartland Home Health Care. Since 2010, she has resided at the SSND community in Milwaukee and in 2013 began volunteering part-time at Our Lady of the Angels nursing home in Greenfield. She received a bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee; a master's in education from the University of Guam and a master's in pastoral ministry from St. Mary's College in Winona, Minnesota.

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

All 60 years have been filled with special blessings. The opportunities for retreats, education and a variety of ministries have been many and varied. Looking back I especially treasure my 18 years on the Island of Guam, during which time I served in both the Catholic school system and public school system.

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

"Trust in the Lord ... Find your delight in the Lord who will give you your heart's desire." Psalm 37:3-4

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

My service on Guam for 18 years, during my "youth." After I retired, I served as a hospice chaplain. That, too, was a very meaningful part of my life. Yearly retreats helped give meaning to all the ministries I served in.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I had SSND teachers at St. Mary's School in Burlington, Wisconsin. They impressed me as an alternate way of life. They spoke of religious life and God's call. Since my parents were against it at first, I feel it was God leading me all the way.