

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 1, 1955

JUBILEE WISDOM

"Live totally in the present."

- Mary Jane Jansen
SSND

- formerly S. Robert Marie



Mary Jane Jansen, SSND

60 Years

Sister Mary Jane's initial years in ministry were teaching grade school in Missouri at St. Peter School, Jefferson City and St. Martin of Tours, St. Louis. From the late 1960s through 1988, she worked as school administrator at St. Martin of Tours, St. Martins; St. Mary, Cape Girardeau; St. Joseph, Westphalia and St. Anthony, Effingham, Illinois; and as assistant superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Springfield/Cape Girardeau. She served as pastoral associate from 1988-1996 at St. John Parish, Leopold, Missouri and from 1996-1999 at St. Mary Parish, Johnson City, Tennessee after which she shifted to the position of administrator at St. Mary's School from 1999-2001. Sister Mary Jane returned to Missouri, as a teacher at Guardian Angel School in Oran, 2001-2004 and then served the parish as director of religious education, 2004-2012. Since 2012, she has devoted herself as a witness to God's love and presence at the Veronica House in Bridgeton. She holds a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis; a master's in elementary administration from Southeast Missouri State University in Cape Girardeau and a master's in pastoral studies from Loyola University in New Orleans.

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

My call from a faith-filled farm family. My deceased parents remain my models and inspiration of love of God and service to others. I cherish my SSND sisters, shared community presence, prayer, and recreation coupled with teaching, pastoral ministry and loving participation in the lives of those I served. I experienced true community in all the parishes in which I was blessed to serve.

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

Gratitude for the past. Live totally in the present. Be open to the future.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

All years of ministry held memorable events as I met, served and loved people as gifts of God. My great-grandmother Louisa was a part of the Trail of Tears March. My daily Cherokee prayer is: "Oh, Great Spirit, allow my eyes to behold the beauty in every day. Permit my hands to respect the things that you have made and teach my heart to respect all people, regardless of their ways."

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

While in high school I was to work with and supervise groups of children. I became aware of the joys and rewards of teaching. Several young women from my parish had entered SSND. Our pastor was Mother Theodosia's nephew ... so I was called to the best!