

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

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- Marylene Venvertloh
SSND

Marylene Venvertloh, SSND

60 Years

Sister Marylene served for the first two decades of her ministry in education as a teacher and principal. She taught elementary and middle school grades across numerous Catholic grade schools from the late 1950s through the mid 1970s. From her first assignment in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, she moved on to Hebron, Nebraska; Quincy, Illinois; Pacific, Missouri; and Nokomis, Illinois. After earning her registered nursing designation in 1977, she served at the SSND's Villa Gesu retirement home near St. Louis. In 1983, she began a 26-year ministry as a nurse at Christian Hospital Northeast in St. Louis. Since early 2009, she has devoted herself to prayer, presence, and volunteering around the Ferguson, Missouri area. She received her bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis; a master's in elementary administration from St. Louis University and a registered nurse certification from DePaul Hospital in St. Louis.

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

Only through the bountiful graces of God can fidelity become a reality. I remain an SSND today because of these graces and blessings. For the past 28 years I have been a resident of Ferguson, Missouri. During the past year I have witnessed much pain, suffering, destruction, burnings, injustices, hate, and yet hope and love. Residents have remained faithful to their beliefs, hopes and dreams. I am ever mindful of Mother Theresa's words, "All the works of God proceed slowly and in pain, therefore their roots are sturdier and their flowering the lovelier." SSND has remained vibrant through the years and Ferguson will rebound.

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

I realized [that in my earlier years] I was more like Martha than like Mary. As I grew older, and hopefully wiser, I began responding to things differently. When I was not as wise, I found myself getting anxious and stressed when certain events and situations occurred. More often than not, it was much ado about nothing. Mindful of Exodus 14, "Be still, and know that I am God," I found an inner peace and calm. I could relax and not be so busy. Now in my golden years, when I find myself worrying or fretting, I call to mind my mantra, Be still.....

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

I have had many meaningful experiences. However, my last five years in volunteer services have been extremely rewarding. At the food pantry our clients are so appreciative and grateful. A SMILE says it all. At the nursing home, a resident shared this as I was working in the gift shop, "Sister, this is the highlight and best part of my week. Just to sit and talk, and laugh with you makes me happy." Her words made me just as happy.