

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Wisdom tells me I need not
have all the answers ...
God is in charge, not me."*

- Patricia Thies
SSND

- formerly S. Marlene

Patricia Thies, SSND

60 Years

Sister Patricia's earliest years were devoted to teaching and administration at Catholic grade schools in St. Louis and Belleville, Illinois. Ending two decades of ministry in education in 1975, she turned her attention to caring full-time for abused and neglected teenage girls, opening a residence in Dittmer, Missouri, which she helped run until 1985. She returned to roles as administrator, religious education director and pastoral associate across numerous schools and parishes in the Springfield, Illinois diocese — St. Mary in Litchfield; St. Michael in Sigel; St. Mary of the Assumption in Neoga; and St. Mary Help of Christians in Green Creek. She continues her ministries in these towns today, as well as at Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lillyville. She received a bachelor's in theology from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in elementary administration from St. Louis University.

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

God's call, fidelity and grace have enabled me to trust in His great love and purpose for my life as an SSND. As I reflect back ... this truly was His doing! I must admit though, it sometimes crossed my mind to question the calls! ... I thank Him daily for my many blessings and for His call to be "Him" to all I meet.

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

"What is Wisdom?" and has "It" come? Because I am loved by God, I believe I've been given Wisdom many times over and it's still coming! Part of It is knowing that God is in charge, not me! His love and care has seen me through good times and not so good times. Wisdom tells me I need not have all the answers. Wisdom helps one to stay focused on God's will and His plan for us.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

Two come to mind ... the first was participating in the SSND Renewal Program in Rome — truly a time of enrichment, grace, and appreciation for Mother Theresa and our community. What a blessing it was!

Secondly, I was given the opportunity to help establish a home for neglected and abused teenage girls. With God's blessings, permission from leadership and support from many others, the Evergreen Hills Home for Girls in Dittmer, Missouri, was established. Sr. Barbara Marie McInturff and I learned from scratch how to "parent," live with and provide a home for many young girls! Truly God was with us and worked many miracles!

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

Having known and been taught mainly by SSNDs I'm sure had a great influence on me. It seemed only natural that, if I were to become a sister, it would be with this community! This decision, however, did not come easy. Having to leave my wonderful family, with our eighth sibling on the way, made that decision all the more difficult. After much prayer, I made what was truly a leap of faith!