

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 12, 1955

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Totally at this moment,  
yes God."*

- Sharon Roedl  
SSND

- formerly S. Mara



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

## Sharon Roedl, SSND

60 Years

*Sister Sharon began her ministry in elementary education in the Illinois cities of Chicago and Rockford. She returned to Wisconsin in 1965, teaching at St. Kilian in Campbellsport and St. Leo in Milwaukee, then turning to staff services and formation director at the Mequon motherhouse through 1981. For the next 25 years, her focus became spiritual direction for individuals and retreatants, primarily in Milwaukee, with stints in San Antonio and Chatawa, Mississippi. She currently lives and serves in prayer and presence at Notre Dame of Elm Grove in Wisconsin. Sister Sharon received a bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in reading education from Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa.*

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

After 35 years of teaching primary grades, mostly in the inner city of Chicago and Milwaukee, I felt called to a change of ministry. I was given the gift of participating in the "Focus on Leadership" program in Denver, where I received training in spiritual direction and retreat ministry. These 25 years in this ministry have been a very graced experience for which I am very grateful!

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

One of my favorite quotes from our Mother Theresa is: "Awed by the mystery of God's action in our midst, we gratefully celebrate life!" My spirituality has been shaped a great deal by Tony de Mello, SJ and Thich Nhat Hanh, with whom I made retreats several years ago. Both stressed "living in the present moment" and "awareness." I try to live by the mantra: "Totally at this moment, yes God." This helps me to be awed by God's presence moment by moment and to celebrate and choose life NOW!

### What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

The experience of being part of the renewal team for our province was the most meaningful of all. Six of us, representing the "healthy polarities" of our province, were sent for training to St. Louis to the "Center for Planned Change." Then, for three years we lived community in Milwaukee, and traveled throughout the province and facilitated a process of renewal leading to change. The process was based on "Experience, Reflection, Choice, Action," and has continued as an ongoing part of decision making in the Milwaukee Province.

### What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

When I was in the 8th grade at St. Peter School in Beaver Dam, my former 5th grade teacher was dying. Sister Christine, my 8th grade teacher, would come to school after spending hours during the night at the bedside in vigil and prayer. I was deeply touched at such loving presence. The seeds of my call to SSND grew out of this witness to real community.