

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 9, 1945

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"Life is to be lived,
not controlled
... all will be well!"*

**- Mary Gilda Sturino
SSND**

Mary Gilda Sturino, SSND

70 Years

Sister Mary Gilda's teaching assignments in her first 25 years of ministry took her to grade schools in the Wisconsin towns of Kenosha, Milwaukee, West Bend, Rice Lake, Bloomer and Darlington. She served at the motherhouse in Mequon, after which she was called to Rome to serve as portress at the SSND Generalate. She returned to the classroom, teaching in Horicon, Wisconsin and Harbor Springs, Michigan. Back to Wisconsin, from 1981-1985, she did parish ministry in Wautoma, then resumed teaching in Kenosha and Berlin through 1989. Sister Mary Gilda served in outreach to the poor in Sallisaw, Oklahoma, for two years, then returned to the Milwaukee motherhouse staff through 1997, when she joined the Notre Dame of Elm Grove community near Milwaukee, where she continues to minister, as a religion teacher to two special needs students and by her prayers and presence. She earned a bachelor's in history from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee.

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

... the blessing of community living – to be daily enriched by sharing life with my companion sisters – refreshingly unique, challenging, prayerful, forgiving, loving, accepting, faith-filled, humorous, peaceful, energizing, holy, welcoming, understanding, fun-loving, creative and on and on.

... the gift of SSND's living "community of persons" – in each sister, Jesus' words call to me: "Come to me; learn from me" because he wants to be recognized in her. Each sister has/is a part of my life's story. This is my joy as well as my challenge.

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

So very, very often I'd ask "WHY?" One day Ma gave me this great answer: "The book of 'WHY' isn't written yet." Life is to be lived, not controlled. God programs my day – so all will be well!

My ear is shaped like half-a-♥ (loving heart). So the message for me is to listen with both ears in order to do the ♥ing thing.

What was an especially meaningful time in your ministry?

My ministry as receptionist at our (Generalate) Convent in Rome was so enriching ... meeting our sisters who lived in other countries – they embodied different cultures. Some lived behind the Iron Curtain. During that time we housed college sophomores from Texas as they made our convent their "Rome campus." I enjoyed being both "housemother and lifeline."

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

The kindness, joy and goodness I sensed in my SSND grade school teachers had me thinking – "I'd like to do what they do – be nice to people."



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province