

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 27, 1945

JUBILEE WISDOM

"No experience is insignificant. I think I've used, in some way, everything I've ever learned or experienced!"

- Mary Helen Hotze
SSND

- formerly S. Angele



School Sisters
of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Mary Helen Hotze, SSND

70 Years

Sister Mary Helen held three teaching posts from 1945-1964, beginning in Conway, Arkansas, and moving to the Missouri cities of St. Charles and St. Louis. After earning a doctorate in theology in 1965, she served as a college professor at the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and later at St. Louis University. She was elected to an eight-year term as provincial councilor in St. Louis, serving from 1979-1987. She then moved to Fort Madison, Iowa, serving in pastoral care ministry through 2005 at St. Mary (Sts. Mary & Joseph) Parish. She returned to volunteer and prayer ministries at Sancta Maria in Ripa and at Veronica House in Bridgeton. She currently resides at SSND's Anna House in Bridgeton. She received a bachelor's in English from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro; a master's in theology from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend; a master's in philosophy from St. Louis University and a doctorate in spirituality from Lumen Vitae in the Brussels region of Belgium.

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

"God must have had something special for you to do in life; otherwise, you would not be here today." I was 12 years old when my mother told me this. I learned I had been critically ill with stomatitis as a baby; our family doctor had said he could do nothing more for me. Yet, here I was, growing up in good health. When I felt called to become an SSND after high school, I remembered my mother's words. Years later, I became gratefully aware that God not only "called me" but has been walking with me.

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

No experience is insignificant. I've used, in some way, everything I've ever learned or experienced. To quote Julian of Norwich: "All will be well!"

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

Were the years I spent as pastoral minister in Fort Madison, Iowa. In moving from college teaching (theology and philosophy), I was overjoyed to be in such a faith-filled, active community with a pastor deeply imbued with the spirit of Vatican II. The experiences of other cultures were wonderful ... I had a two week immersion experience in Spanish Honduras with other sisters. It was a gift beyond measure: such a faith-filled people, so dedicated, loving, friendly, hospitable. Japan, too, taught me so much during two summers I spent there, including participating with my own sister, Sister Clarea (SSND missionary teaching in Japan) in a three-week cultural program at Sophia University. I also directed sisters in a 30-day retreat program in Hiroshima, and later trained for spiritual direction and individually directed retreats. How grateful I am! How wonderful are God's ways! Who else could have designed all these resources?!