

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
August 9, 1945

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"The mutual giving
and receiving
has been my true witness
as a vowed religious."*

**- Mary Willene Grossaint
SSND**

Mary Willene Grossaint, SSND

70 Years

Sister Mary Willene began her teaching ministry in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. From 1950-1960 she served as an elementary teacher in Chicago, then returned to Wisconsin. For the next 17 years, she taught middle grades in the Wisconsin cities of Port Washington, Kenosha, Appleton, Menasha, Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, and Nekoosa. Over the next 12 years, she served in social services and health care in Milwaukee and Elm Grove. She worked for Milwaukee's Security Microfilm from 1991-1997. She spent four years in volunteer service in Kennett, Missouri, then relocated in 2002 to Wisconsin's Notre Dame of Elm Grove, where she served as a hospitality coordinator through 2010. She continues to reside there, ministering through prayer and presence. She received a bachelor's in education from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in education/counseling-guidance from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

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

Life is a gift and a rich blessing. All my years I have been enriched by family, community, and those I ministered to. The mutual giving and receiving has been my true witness as a vowed religious.

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

I always liked mountains. I live by this quote of Dag Hammarskjöld: "Never measure the height of the mountain until you've reached the top, then you will see how low it was." Another quote that I live by is from Mother Caroline: "What cannot be achieved by kindness is unattainable."

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

A special blessing was the five years I worked in Missouri's Bootheel (far southeastern region). The insight I gained was of the trials and tribulations of people who were Hispanic as they tried to find jobs. I grew in my relationships with them as I appreciated the stories of how hard they worked in the cotton fields. I cherish all the friends and people who were woven into my life over the years. That is true joy.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

I admired my 8th grade teacher. She invited me and I joined the community as an aspirant.