

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
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JUBILEE WISDOM

*"One should get to know
Mary as a Mother."*

- Miriam Saumweber
SSND

- formerly S. Mary Verone



Miriam Saumweber, SSND

70 Years

Sister Miriam spent more than two decades as a teacher in nine different Catholic schools across the Minnesota communities of St. Paul, Loretto, Northfield, Mankato and Lismore, and in the North Dakota town of Dickinson. From 1970-1971 she served in Winona, Mankato and Hampton, Minnesota, then returned to teaching in Litomysl and Wells. She accepted a two-year teaching assignment in Cresco, Iowa, before turning to ministry in art therapy for students with special needs. She served in the Minnesota towns of Northfield and Robbinsdale, as well as St. Louis, Chicago and Freeport, Illinois, and Philadelphia. In the mid 1990s, she became director of Expressive Arts for Children in St. Paul. In 2002 she began Expressive Arts for Sisters in Mankato. Since 2005, she has resided at the Good Counsel Convent in Mankato. Sister Miriam holds numerous degrees from Minnesota colleges: a bachelor's in English from the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul; a master's in education from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul; a master's in biology from St. Mary's College in Winona and a master's in art therapy from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph.

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

The most special blessing of my life was my mother and her dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary. After the birth of each of her four daughters, Mom took us to church and offered us to the Blessed Mother, to be blessed and cared for by Mary our whole life. Another blessing was to be taught by the SSNDs through my grade school and high school years.

Words of wisdom I would like to share ...

One should get to know Mary as a Mother. Ask Mary for help when needed. As a student at Good Counsel Academy, I would spend time in the chapel praying to Our Lady for guidance. My dedication to her grew over the years.

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

My first mission was exceptional. Ten days after I entered candidature, I was asked to teach 1st grade to replace a sister who needed immediate surgery. I was not at all prepared. This experience offered great challenges and the opportunity to practice obedience and faith in relying on God's help. I also relied on the grace of Mother Mary. There were many experiences like this in my decades of ministry in teaching.

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

It was in grade school that I was first influenced by the SSNDs. My sewing teacher at Sacred Heart School in St. Paul was Sister Genevieve. She showed interest in each individual student and inspired me to want to become a "Sewing Sister." She was very patient and encouraging. It was obvious that she loved each of us. My 6th grade teacher, Sister Corinne Lawrie, also helped to influence my decision. I could feel the love that she had for me and my classmates. I could see it on her face. Several others from my school and family also greatly inspired me.