

2015 Jubilee



First Profession
July 22, 1940

JUBILEE WISDOM

*"My dream was
to teach for God."*

**- M. René Lorentz
SSND**

M. René Lorentz, SSND

75 Years

Sister René first served as a high school teacher in St. Paul and Minneapolis; New England, North Dakota and Gilbertville, Iowa. Following completion of her doctorate in 1963, she began a decade of service as a professor and administrator at SSND's Formation College in Mankato (accredited through Mount Mary College in Milwaukee). From 1975-1983, she held a leadership role as councilor in Mankato, then returned to high school teaching in Walla Walla, Washington. From 1989 through the mid-1990s, she revived her ministry as a college professor, first in Epworth, Iowa, and later in St. Louis. She served in parish ministry and elementary education in Madison Lake, Minnesota, before returning to Mankato's Good Counsel Convent, where since 2005, she has resided in prayer and presence. She earned a bachelor's in history from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and holds both a master's and doctorate in U.S. history from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

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

Over the 75 years I have found peace, love, joy in being a sister and answering the special call to be a School Sister of Notre Dame. Already as a novice I expressed it in verse:

"I built a fence around my heart,
A fence that can't be shaken
And high up on the pickets white,
A blood-red sign reads, 'Taken'."

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

Sister M. Devota Burfield was a source of wisdom in the message she gave me as a freshman at Good Counsel Academy in 1933:

The sweetest word is LOVE

The strongest word is GOD

The shortest word is NOW ... Put the three together and you have the key to happiness for all eternity. Yes ... Love God now!

An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...

Teaching was the fulfillment of my dream at grade school, high school and college levels. Ten years of teaching philosophy and history in our Formation College and four years of teaching ESL and history at Divine Word College in Epworth, Iowa, were favorites. I'm grateful for ALL!

What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?

Religious vocations were an important part of my family heritage: an SSND Aunt, Sister Mary Philip Leonard, an uncle and great-uncle Jesuit priests. Also in grade and high school my SSND teachers in Mankato were an inspiration to me. My dream was to TEACH for God.