

# 2015 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 22, 1940

## JUBILEE WISDOM

*"I have enjoyed the challenges and blessings of each ministry."*

- Mary Elsa Bren  
SSND

## Mary Elsa Bren, SSND

75 Years

*Sister Mary Elsa's earliest ministries spanned the World War II years and through the 1950s, when she served the SSND congregation as a housekeeper in the towns of Colton, Washington; St. Leo, Minnesota; St. Donatus, Iowa; New Salem and New Hradec, North Dakota; and Mankato and Shakopee, Minnesota. She served as a primary grade teacher in Dayton, Minnesota from 1959-1963. Subsequent roles in both teaching and domestic assistance throughout the next decade took her to Clarkston, Washington; the Minnesota towns of Bloomington, Searles, and back to Mankato, where she served at Good Counsel Convent from 1976-1981. For the next decade, Sister Mary Elsa alternated her ministries between housekeeping for the SSND community and visiting the sick in the parishes of Dickinson, North Dakota. Since 1992, she has devoted herself as a prayer witness at the Good Counsel Convent in Mankato, Minnesota.*

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

In retirement we receive many spiritual blessings: Mass, anointing, penance, recollection days, retreat, daily community prayer, spiritual talks, Scripture study ...

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

The way other sisters have lived SSND life has been an example to me.

### **An especially meaningful time in my ministry ...**

I have had a variety of ministries and have enjoyed the challenges and blessings of each one.

### **What drew you to the School Sisters of Notre Dame?**

I had SSNDs as grade school teachers and their example of living and praying drew me to the community.