

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1966

Esther Wagner, SSND

50 Years

Sister Esther taught elementary students for 39 years after her first profession of vows in 1966. She taught in five parish schools in Minnesota: Blue Earth, Forest Lake, Coon Rapids, Shakopee and St. Paul. She also served as a substitute teacher in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and as an office receptionist in Minneapolis. Besides classroom teaching, she was involved for years in the parish and community liturgical environment, liturgical committee work, women's prayer circles, summer vacation Bible schools and religious education classes that included sacramental preparation for young children. Sister Esther currently teaches English as a second language to immigrants at Learning in Style in Minneapolis. She earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and theology from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master's in child development and early childhood education from Wheelock College in Boston.

An experience I would like to share...

As an SSND, I'm grateful that I belong to a religious community that addresses the signs of the times and responds to so many needs in our world, "to make the world one." After educating young children for 40 years in Catholic schools, I transitioned into my current ministry of teaching English as a second language to adult immigrants in 2007. I was reminded that our first SSNDs in the United States worked with immigrants, empowering them, encouraging them, walking with them on their challenging journey and giving them hope. We as SSND continue to embrace the call to reach out to our sisters and brothers in need. Each day I feel blessed, touched by the immigrants' gratitude and simplicity. These people have won my heart. I am called to "proclaim the Good News with joy" as Blessed Theresa did. I experience God in many colors and cultures, and my spirit rejoices.

-formerly S. Marie Antoine