

# 2016 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 30, 1966

-formerly S. Marie Jerrilyn

## Joan DiProsperre, SSND

50 Years

**S**ister Joan began her teaching ministry in 1968 after her first profession of vows in 1966. She taught at St. Anthony in Effingham, Illinois; Immaculate Conception in West Alton, Missouri; St. Helen in Fresno, California and St. Peter in St. Charles, Missouri. She also served as principal for 11 years at St. Paul in Highland, Illinois; St. Stephen in Caseyville, Illinois; and St. Joseph in Manchester, Missouri. Sister Joan then ministered for two years as a residential counselor at Boys' Hope in St. Louis. She became an administrator at Villa Gesu Health Center in St. Louis for nine years before serving for three years as Senior Services Coordinator for the former School Sisters of Notre Dame St. Louis Province. Sister Joan ministered for four years as a mental health counselor and crime victim therapist at COMTREA in Arnold, Missouri, before beginning her service as a provincial councilor in the former St. Louis Province for four years and as provincial councilor for the Central Pacific Province for four years, a service ending in 2015. She has been in ministry discernment while living at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Theresa Center in St. Louis. She is currently preparing for her new ministry at the Generalate in Rome, Italy which begins in November 2016. Sister Joan holds a bachelor's in American studies from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis and a master's in elementary school counseling from Emporia State University in Emporia, Kansas and earned her license as a professional counselor.

### Experience I would like to share...

During this Jubilee year, I have been reflecting on experiences and memories from my 50 professed years as an SSND and find it difficult to settle on one. I would like to share the blessings that I have received because of my call to religious life. I have had many opportunities to grow in my understanding of what it means to be part of an international congregation and have had many experiences that I could never have imagined when I entered in 1964. I began my ministerial life as a primary teacher, and beginning with those first years and in the years to follow, I have been greatly blessed by the people who influenced how I would further the SSND mission. At each new ministry challenge, I was mentored, supported and encouraged to trust, risk and have confidence in my gifts and abilities. I discovered that I am able to continue to learn, to change, to rely on others and, most especially, to rely on God's ever-present love. As St. Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 3:3, "God is faithful and will give you strength and guard you from all harm." It has been a grace to live in community with many sisters and to minister with many sisters and lay co-workers. My world expanded from my small family in South St. Louis to a world of other cities, states and countries.