

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 30, 1966

Judith Schroeder, SSND

50 Years

Sister Judith served in eight middle and high schools beginning in 1968. She taught for 19 years before moving into the social work ministry. She served in social work for one year at the Missouri Department of Health for the AIDS Program in Jefferson City, Missouri, and for 13 years at Ft. Leonard Wood Hospital in Ft. Leonard, Missouri. She then tutored at the Notre Dame Tutorial Center in St. Louis and served as a patient ambassador for St. Louis University Hospital. Sister Judith currently volunteers and ministers in prayer and presence in St. Louis. She earned a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, a masters' in secondary administration and a master's of social work in mental health from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri.

An experience I would like to share...

In the early 1970s, I was missioned at St. Francis de Sales in St. Louis. It was the most memorable and rewarding school assignment of my career. The faculty was young, energetic and dedicated. The students and faculty had an excellent rapport, even though the students came from lower middle class neighborhoods and some troubled homes. Many students stayed after school and attended extracurricular activities, thus creating further opportunities for sharing. Subjects included deeper issues, such as family problems, boyfriend/girlfriend conflicts, peer pressure and on-the-job issues.

Even though the school closed many years ago, I still praise and thank God for the many blessings I received and witnessed during my two-year tenure there. The school carried on a long tradition of positive Christian values, making for a smooth transition from one year to the next. Though I have focused on the strengths of the school, I cannot forget what I felt my contributions were: strong teaching skills portraying pertinent Christian values, valuable life skills and faith-filled Catholic beliefs. This wisdom I owe to the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Their support and encouragement gave me the courage to go on teaching and to carry the de Sales gifts into my years of clinical social work. I thank God for my vocation to SSND.

-formerly S. Denis Mara