

# 2016 Jubilee



First Profession  
July 30, 1966

## Mary Kay Schmitt, SSND

50 Years

**S**ister Mary Kay taught high school French, English and religion at Mater Dei in Breese, Illinois; Aquinas in Ft. Madison, Iowa; and Helias in Jefferson City, Missouri, from 1968 to 1982. Following a one-year internship in retreat, spiritual direction and parish ministry at Loyola House in Guelph, Canada, she ministered for 24 years in Missouri parishes as a director of religious education, pastoral minister and retreat and spiritual director. These Missouri parishes included Northeast Catechetical Center in Edina and Memphis; St. Alban, St. Matthias and Immaculate Conception in Jackson; Immaculate Conception in Union; and All Souls in St. Louis. From 2006 to 2008, Sister Mary Kay completed four units of clinical pastoral education at Barnes-Jewish St. Peters and Christian Hospital, both in St. Louis. She continued in hospital chaplaincy ministry at SSM St. Mary's, SSM DePaul and Barnes-Jewish St. Louis until 2014. She currently volunteers as an adult English as a second language and literacy tutor, and serves in spiritual direction at Theresa Center in St. Louis. Sister Mary Kay received a bachelor's in French and English from the former Notre Dame College in 1968 and a master's in French from Middlebury College in Middlebury, Vermont in 1975.

### An experience I would like to share...

Our SSND Constitution calls us to journey in faith, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ with our lives. My 50th Jubilee fills my heart with joy and gratitude for the places and people to whom and with whom I have been sent to minister. Whether as teacher, parish minister, retreat/spiritual director, or hospital chaplain, I have witnessed Christ's healing presence and action in them as they hear the words of the Father, "You are my beloved one." I stand in awe of God's unfolding call in their lives and my own. Mutual or shared ministry is important to me. I cherish the teams I helped form to assist in parish and school ministries: faculty/ staff prayer days, Sacrament preparation, RCIA/RCIC groups, parish prayer days and retreats and parish renewal programs. I thank God for the wonderful people who volunteered their very selves for the sake of Christ and our faith. Pastoral ministry, care of the sick and dying and grief support have always been part of my service. In more recent years, this became my main ministry as hospital chaplain. God sends us forth in strange ways. My own health struggles allowed me to be open to this ministry and to let God use me as an expression of Christ's comforting presence for others. As St. Paul says, "I thank my God each time I think of you, and when I pray for you, I pray with joy."

-formerly S. Marie Ramon



School Sisters  
of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province