

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 17, 1966

-formerly S. Josanne

Patricia Gehling, SSND

50 Years

Sister Patricia served as an elementary school teacher for five years following her first profession of vows in 1966. She then served as an assistant administrator for Shakopee Area Catholic Schools before becoming an administrator at Immaculate Conception in Gilbertville, Iowa, for 12 years and at St. Pius X in Rochester, Minnesota, for 13 years. After briefly substitute teaching in the Phoenix Catholic School System, Sister Patricia served as an elementary school principal for eight years at St. Thomas the Apostle and three years at St. Theresa School, both in Phoenix. She then performed educational services at the School Sisters of Notre Dame residence in Phoenix and Scottsdale, Arizona. Sister Patricia currently serves as the coordinator of ministry at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Scottsdale. She earned a bachelor's in education and English from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a masters' in elementary education from Mankato State University in Mankato, Minnesota.

A memory I would like to share...

The experience which immediately stands out as influential is my Silver Jubilee Renewal time in Europe. The opportunity to realize firsthand out internationality by visiting many SSND heritage sites, to briefly live with SSNDs of different cultures and languages and to experience the oneness in the Eucharist which binds all SSNDs was significantly powerful. Our carefully planned renewal program in Italy and Germany will always be treasured as weeks filled with sacred times and opportunities.

In Rome, the spiritual and heritage input sessions directed by our international leadership, group session and group opportunities to visit churches, Vatican City and catacombs through the eyes of a pilgrim were grace-filled. We had many afternoons to take our pilgrim guide booklet, walk down the long, steep Generalate driveway to catch a crowded Roman bus and visit historical sites. While exploring, we frequently got lost but always remembered to ask three different people for directions to a specific site. And yes, they were seldom the same directions!

Our time in Munich visiting with the sisters and praying at the tomb of Mother Theresa are still very vivid memories. The day spent at the Dachau prison site, and the privilege of meeting Sister Imma, a candidate who repeatedly risked her life weekly by taking hosts and wine to imprisoned priests, was a true witness of faith in God.