

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 30, 1966

Sandy Bay, SSND

50 Years

Sister Sandy began her ministry as a teacher in three different junior high schools after professing her first vows in 1966 and earning a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis. She then served as the principal for two years at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Herrin, Illinois, before being missioned to St. Paul High School in Highland, Illinois, where she taught English and religion from 1976 until 1983. During these years, Sister Sandy studied at St. Louis University and obtained a master's degree in religious studies, and was also trained in spiritual direction and retreat work at Guelph, Ontario, Canada, and began the ministry of spiritual direction part time while continuing to teach at St. Paul High School. Sister Sandy then served as a campus minister at the Newman Center at Washington University from 1983 until 1990, as a novice director at the SSND Interprovincial Novitiate in St. Louis for three years and as an associate formation director of the college seminarians at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary for three years. In 1990, she received a master's degree in pastoral counseling and guidance from St. Louis University. She continued to minister as a spiritual and retreat director part time until 1993, including serving as a spiritual director for the St. Louis Consultation Center. In 1994, Sister Sandy began ministering full time as a spiritual and retreat director. She continues in this role and her role at the St. Louis Consultation Center.

A memory I would like to share...

One powerful experience that shaped my heart happened in 1973 when I made my first individually directed retreat. Sister Gen Cassani was my director and she deepened my experience of how much God loves me. I knew immediately that I, too, wanted to be a spiritual director someday to help others know how much God loves them. Hearing my desires, Sister Bernadelle Zurmuellen, our provincial leader at the time, sent me for the required training. When I asked Sister Bernadelle for advice, she said, "Love the people you direct." How wise she was! Although I loved spiritual direction work immediately, our community requested that I have a ministry in addition to spiritual direction. When I talked with our provincial councilor, Sister Lee Anne Farrell, about my next part-time ministry, her question changed my life, "Have you ever thought about doing spiritual direction work full time?" I remember vividly how my hand shook as I held the phone and said, "I have dreamed about it." Since 1994, I have been privileged and humbled to be allowed into the mystery of each one's relationship with God. Through this profound grace, I experience God's abundant love and the lengths to which God goes to woo our hearts.

