

2016 Jubilee



First Profession
July 30, 1966

Theresa Marise Hansen, SSND

50 Years

Sister Theresa Marise served as an elementary school teacher at four schools following her graduation from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis in 1968. She then completed her nursing studies and served as a registered nurse for 16 years at Villa Gesu and Nazareth Nursing Home in St. Louis and Mercy Hospital in San Diego. Sister Theresa Marise then moved on to pastoral care at Stamford Health System in Stamford, Connecticut, before serving as chaplain for St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, New York, for nine years. She currently serves in spiritual care for retired School Sisters of Notre Dame missioned to Veronica House and Anna House in Bridgeton, Missouri. She holds a bachelor's in English from the former Notre Dame College and a registered nursing certification from DePaul Hospital in St. Louis.

A memory I would like to share...

Reflecting upon the past 50 years, I realize that I have come full circle. I began my ministry as a junior sister when three others in my class and myself were asked to go to Villa Gesu and assist the staff for a few weeks during summer break – two of us in the kitchen and two of us on the nursing floor. Needless to say, I asked to help the nurses. During the following Christmas break, the four of us asked to return. And so began my numerous summer weeks of volunteer ministry as a nurse's aide at the Villa during my seven years of primary teaching. Then my request was granted to attend DePaul Hospital School of Nursing, and after graduating, I ministered at the Villa, Mercy Hospital in San Diego and Nazareth Living Center in St. Louis, all totaling 18 years. The next portion of my journey took me along a spiritual path, but still within the health care realm. A basic unit of CPE followed by a 12-month CPE residency program prepared me for nine years of chaplaincy in a hospital in upstate New York. Then I heard the call deep within me to return home to my elder sisters in community at The Sarah Community, and to share their journey home to eternity. The rest, as they say, is my current history. And I am truly blessed!