



School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

**2017 Jubilee**

**Celebrating 50 years**

*First Profession—7/29/1967*

*Formerly Sister Marie Dorette*

## **Sister Bernadette Goessling, SSND**

*Sister Bernadette has served in six different dioceses throughout her 50-year ministry as an SSND. Her early years were spent in education, beginning in Catholic grade schools in the dioceses of Belleville, St. Louis, Lincoln and Los Angeles. Beginning in 1982, she served in administration for four years at St. Martin de Porres in Hazelwood, Missouri. In 1987, she was named guidance counselor at Columbia Catholic School in the Diocese of Jefferson City, a post she held through 2008. Since that time, she has ministered in Springfield, Missouri, beginning with part-time pastoral ministry at both St. Agnes Cathedral and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishes. Since 2012, she has devoted herself to prayer and presence in Springfield, Missouri.*

### *A memory I have to share...*

I have been blessed by 50 years of religious life. One of the gifts I am most thankful for is the gift of many relationships. My sisters in community have always been there to share hopes, dreams, good times and challenging times. They have been inspiring to me and I call them friends. My family I call friends, too, because they have always loved and stood by me. The special gift of the people I have met in ministry I value because of the support and gift of selves which has taught me much about God's faithfulness. I have learned to listen and to be there for others. Many of these relationships have been short. Yet, if I return to a place of ministry, they resume as if it was yesterday. I am now serving people who are homebound, sick and elderly. I have been able to become a part of their final journeys, and they a part of mine. As I walk the final steps with them, I live in deep admiration and amazement as they share their lives and their readiness for God. I find them to have a great love and faith; their only fear is for those they leave behind. They have learned to live in God's time, not ours. They allow me to become a part of their families. I become overwhelmed by their desire for God. I learn of their faith life, the easy and the hard, but they look beyond. One of the best gifts in these relationships is the ability to laugh and to cry with these people and with myself. All the experiences in life without these abilities would take from the relationships a richness and a depth.



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