



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 50 years
First Profession—7/29/1967

Sister Danielle Witt, SSND

Sister Danielle finished her undergraduate degree in biology in 1969 from the former Notre Dame College and taught at St. Gabriel the Archangel School in St. Louis through 1971. She then served four years as director of religious education concurrently at three parishes in the Belleville, Illinois, diocese. Her ministry took her to Honduras to serve both as a teacher and pastoral associate. Returning to Illinois in 1979, Sister Danielle taught for a year and a half at St. Paul's in Highland, and soon after, completed a master's in theological studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. She returned to Honduras in 1982 and served as SSND's director of initial formation in El Progreso, Yoro. Upon returning to the United States in 1989, she undertook ministry at Bethany Springs Retreat Center in Kentucky until 2002. From 1990 until 1992, she completed a two-year internship in spiritual direction and received her certification as a spiritual director. From 2003 through 2007, Sister Danielle served the former St. Louis Province as novice director. She moved to California, where she currently ministers as assistant director of St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers.



A memory I have to share...

I have always been open to adventure, and perhaps that is one reason I was drawn to religious life - to be open to however and wherever God called me. And my life has certainly been a testament to that! I entered religious life because I wanted to witness to others that you could both love life and love God. I wanted to give my life to God and do whatever God wanted me to do, but with one caveat: I promised my parents that I would never work outside the United States. So I was completely amazed when at the age of 27, I felt a deep and compelling call to volunteer for our mission in Honduras, Central America! And I was even more astounded that within weeks, I got a call from the Provincial Council saying that they were taking me up on my offer! The 10 years I spent with our sisters and the people of Honduras enriched me in more ways that I can ever begin to share. It changed my whole view of the world and taught me how much all people everywhere are the same on the inside. We are truly one! I am also so grateful for the opportunity to learn Spanish as a second language, which serves me well in my present ministry. When I came back from Honduras, I had no plans and was open to wherever I was needed. Again, little did I know that God had a wonderful plan for me as a retreat director. There was a great need for someone to take over as director of a small retreat center in Kentucky and, since I was free, I offered to take the job for a year. This ended up being 13 years and the love of my life. After helping out in the interprovincial novitiate for four years, I am back in retreat ministry at St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, California, and hope to be here for years to come.

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