



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 50 years

First Profession—7/17/1967

Formerly Sister Kenneth Ann

Sister Janet Mallak, SSND

Sister Janet's early years in ministry were spent teaching primary grades at Catholic schools across Minnesota. From 1968 through 1970, she served at St. John the Baptist in Savage. Following a year in Blue Earth, she moved to Shakopee until 1975, when she was called to Raymond, Iowa, where she taught four years at Immaculate Conception-St. Joseph. She concluded her teaching ministry with a decade at St. Francis Xavier in Sartell and St. Mary in Worthington, both in Minnesota. Sister Janet then turned to retreat ministry at Bird Island's Center for Spiritual Development in the Diocese of New Ulm, remaining through mid-2001. She served seven years in La Crosse Wisconsin, working at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in administration and spiritual direction. She held a provincial councilor role in the former Mankato Province from 2009 through 2011, and resumed full-time spiritual direction thereafter, a ministry which continues today around Mankato. She holds a bachelor's in elementary education with a minor in Spanish from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee. In 1989 she earned a Master of Arts in ministry from Creighton University in Omaha.



A reflection I have to share...

In religious life I have experienced many opportunities, friendships and blessings. As I began this journey, the Vatican Council was in process, which brought many changes within the Catholic Church and religious life. Change and new opportunities were a part of my life. As a country, we experienced the turbulent 1960s, and my call was to broaden my world view. As a second grade teacher, my favorite memory is about Mary, a second grader. One day Mary came to school crying. Her grandmother died that morning. Mary held my hand and sat next to me during the day. Many years later I was offering a retreat to primary teachers. A young woman came forward and said, "I bet you do not recognize me. I am Mary. You held my hand. I am a teacher now. Thank you." The gift of ministry is to witness the good news among us. My SSND community and relationships are at the heart of these 50 years. They are my sister companions who pray, stay near and walk the journey of faith, hope and love. Every day, "God is present and ever new."

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