



School Sisters of Notre Dame
Central Pacific Province

Transforming the world through education

2017 Jubilee

Celebrating 50 years

First Profession—7/29/1967

Sister John LaLande Baricevic, SSND

Sister John LaLande began her ministry as an educator in 1969. She taught in schools in St. Louis and Belleville, Illinois, before serving as a staff member at Villa Gesu in St. Louis in 1972. She resumed teaching in 1973 at St. Paul High School in Highland, Illinois, and then served at schools in Nebraska, Illinois and Missouri before teaching from 1985 until 1999 at Mater Dei High School in Breese, Illinois. In 1999, Sister John LaLande began a ministry in IT education and support, first full-time at St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville, Illinois, and then part-time at Southwestern Illinois College beginning in 2001. While continuing to teach at Southwestern, she taught at Dupo High School from 2002 until 2003 and provided IT support for SSNDs living in the St. Louis area. Sister John LaLande's other ministries included more than 15 years with the Belleville Diocese's Camp Ondessonk, serving both as a summer staff member and on the Board of Directors, and for more than 25 years as an employee of the Illinois High School Association as a Scholastic Bowl moderator and writer. From 2003 to 2014, Sister John LaLande served as a member of the St. Louis and Central Pacific IT Department at Sancta Maria in Ripa in St. Louis. Since 2014, while continuing to teach at Southwestern, she has continued to provide personalized IT support to SSNDs living in the area. She earned a bachelor's in mathematics from the former Notre Dame College in St. Louis, and holds a master's in computer science education from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



A memory I have to share...

As the grandchild of immigrants, the stories of my own family history and heritage have long been important to me. I was delighted to be able to provide some technical support to Sister Judy Best as she produced what we now know as “Sturdy Roots,” an interactive educational resource for studying and sharing the heritage and spirit of SSND. I used “Sturdy Roots” as the basis for a retreat shortly after it was completed. The entire retreat was a deeply moving experience, but one moment stood out. During that retreat, I heard a sister with a German accent read a letter detailing the bombing of the Munich Motherhouse during World War II. The emotions expressed by Sister Brunhilde as she read that letter from Mother Almeda touched me deeply. I will forever be grateful to Sister Henriette Hoene for her efforts to make the letters of our heritage available to all of us, and to Sister Judy for bringing them to life in “Sturdy Roots.” My sense of membership within an international community grew profoundly during that retreat. I truly believe that together we are much more than the sum of our individual parts.

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